



August - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck near San José del Palmar, Chocó, Colombia, killing at least 164 people and causing major damage in Cali and Pereira.
- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, became India's first major port to achieve Scope-2 Emission-Free status.
 - Renewable energy met 93.89% of its electricity needs in 2025–26, and the port became the first Indian major port to receive ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System certification.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India inaugurated Param Pragya, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered high-performance computing facility at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) Sonapat Campus.
- ❖ Pteris madhusoodananii, a new fern species belonging to the genus Pteris and family Pteridaceae, was discovered in Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ World Steelpan Day is observed every year on 11 August to promote the cultural heritage of the steelpan, a musical instrument originating in Trinidad and Tobago and also known as a steel drum.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Rhythm and Rise: Youth. Discipline. Culture. Community."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Resolution for 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu'

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution for Tamil Thai Vazhthu to be mandatorily sung first before the commencement of programmes in all educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector undertakings, and other public institutions in the State.
- ❖ This comes on the heels of the Union Home Ministry, in a letter dated July 9, 2026, making certain observations on the rendering of the State song and directing the State government to render Vande Mataram at the beginning of State functions.
- ❖ Tamil Thai Vazhthu was taken from Manonmaniam, written by Manonmaniam Sundaranar in 1891.
- ❖ The resolution said the government order stipulating that it should be sung first at government functions came into effect on November 23, 1970.

- ❖ Subsequently, the DMK government, on December 12, 2021, issued an order according recognition to it as the State song.
- ❖ The State government's resolution accords priority to Tamil Thai Vazhthu.



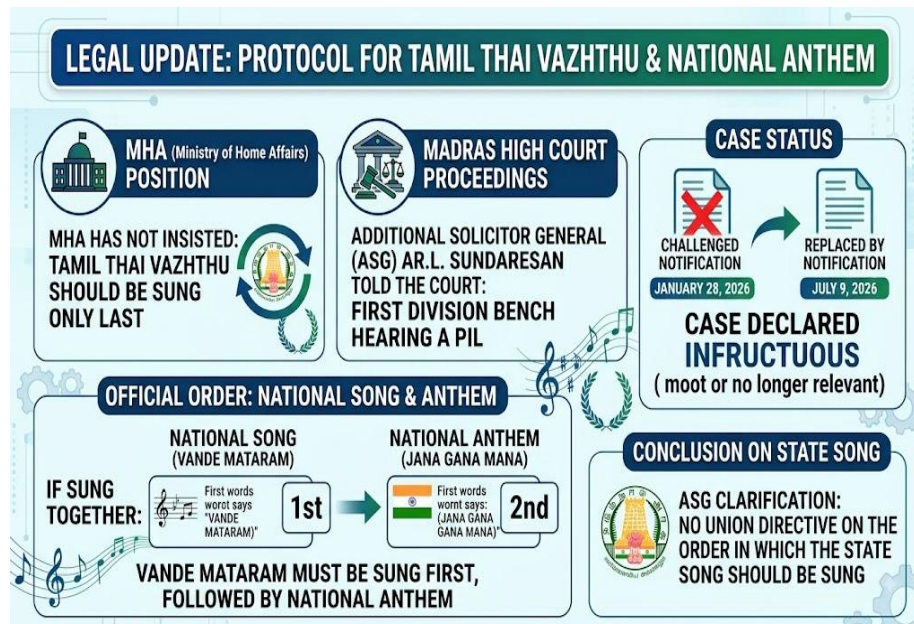
Tamil Thaa Vaazhthu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a special resolution reaffirming that "Tamil Thaa Vaazhthu" must be sung first at all functions in the state.

- ❖ The resolution was placing the state invocation song to be placed ahead of the national song Vande Mataram and the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.
- ❖ The opposition DMK in Tamil Nadu urged the state government to introduce a legislation to accord statutory status to Tamil Thai Vaazhthu.
- ❖ The DMK maintained that a mere resolution is not enough to make it legally binding on dignitaries such as the Governor or central authorities.
- ❖ A resolution and a law are completely different things.
- ❖ A mere resolution will not bind the Governor or central government authorities.
- ❖ To ensure that Tamil Thaaai Vazhthu is accorded top priority across the state, it requires statutory recognition through a proper Bill passed in this Assembly session itself.
- ❖ Rejecting the Assembly Speaker's view that a resolution alone is sufficient, the DMK leader contended that without a legislative enactment, there are possibilities of the invocation song being bypassed or relegated to a secondary position during official functions attended by high dignitaries like the Governor.
- ❖ While a resolution might work in schools or basic settings, full official adherence across all institutions requires legal status.

Centre on Tamil Thai Vazhthu



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has not insisted that the State song Tamil Thai Vazhthu should be sung only at the last, after the rendition of the national song Vande Mataram and the national anthem, during official events.
- ❖ Additional Solicitor General (ASG) AR.L. Sundaresan told the Madras High Court.

- ❖ The first Division Bench of Chief Justice bench at Madras High Court was hearing of a public interest litigation petition in this regard.
- ❖ The case had become infructuous since it had challenged a January 28, 2026 notification of the MHA whereas it had been replaced by a new notification issued on July 9, 2026.
- ❖ The ASG said that if the national song and the national anthem had to be sung together, then in which order should they be sung.
- ❖ The national song must be sung first followed by national anthem when they both have to be sung together.
- ❖ There is no directive issued by the Union with respect to the order in which the State song should be sung.

FCRA Bill Withdrawal - TN



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Union Government to withdraw the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 in its present form.
- ❖ The resolution raised concerns over provisions allowing the Government to take over, manage, dispose of or sell assets of charitable organisations after FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration expires, is not renewed, is cancelled or surrendered.
- ❖ It urged the Centre to hold comprehensive consultations with State governments and charitable, religious, educational, medical and social organisations.
- ❖ The Assembly said any amendment should protect natural justice, proportionality, property rights, legitimate expectation and federalism, while ensuring transparency and accountability in foreign contributions.

- ❖ The resolution also stated that the Bill could affect the autonomy of charitable organisations, including educational and social welfare institutions run by minorities.

Sangam-age Irrigation Structure in Tiruchi

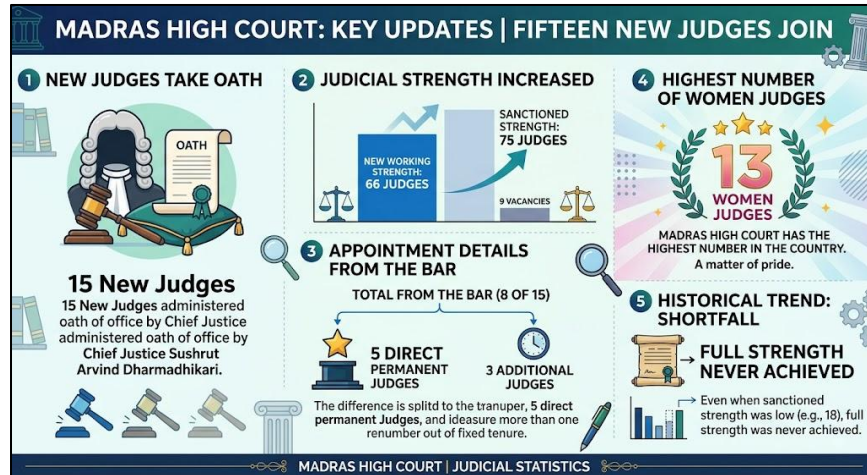
- ❖ A possible Sangam-age irrigation structure was found on the Kollidam River near Koogur in Tiruchi district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) inspected the brick and stone structures and identified them as a possible Early Historic period (3rd–4th century CE) inlet channel.
- ❖ Two structures were found, including a semi-circular brick wall and two submerged parallel walls that may have formed a channel opening.
- ❖ The exposed structure is about 2 feet high and 4 feet wide and may have been used as a sluice or inlet/outlet channel for water management.
- ❖ The large bricks and construction style are similar to an ancient water-management structure found at Vanagiri near Kaveripattinam (Poompuhar).



Fifteen new judges

- ❖ The Madras High Court Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari administered the oath of office to 15 new judges.
- ❖ With this the working strength of the High Court has increased to 66 against its sanctioned strength of 75 judges.
- ❖ While the first five out of the eight elevated from the Bar had been appointed directly as permanent judges of the High Court, the rest had been appointed as additional judges for a fixed tenure.

- ❖ It is a matter of pride for all of us that this High Court has 13 women judges, the highest among all high courts in the country.
- ❖ Today the strength is 75.
- ❖ Even when the sanctioned strength was 18, it has never achieved a full strength.



Historic hike in special incentives for paddy and sugarcane

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM Vijay announces 'historic hike' in special incentives for paddy and sugarcane.
- ❖ He said paddy procurement would begin in September and the government would offer an incentive of ₹289 per quintal for fine varieties, in addition to the MSP.
- ❖ The incentive for the common variety would be ₹159 per quintal.
- ❖ With the incentive, the total price would be ₹2,750 per quintal for fine varieties and ₹2,600 per quintal for the common category.
- ❖ For the first time in history, the State government has increased the incentive price by ₹156 in a year.
- ❖ For sugarcane farmers who had registered with sugar factories for 2025-26, the Chief Minister said the special incentive would be ₹709.50 per tonne, in addition to the ₹3,290.50 per tonne fixed by the Union government.
- ❖ The announcement would take the total price to ₹4,000 per tonne for sugarcane farmers. For the first time, the special incentive for sugarcane is being increased beyond ₹134.
- ❖ The CM was making a suo motu statement in the Assembly under rule no 110.
- ❖ Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar made it clear there would be no debate on statement made under Rule 110 of the Assembly.

- ❖ In the past, members of political parties were allowed to “thank” the government for its announcements.



NATIONAL NEWS

Agarwood Export Roadmap



- ❖ The government has released a Roadmap for Agarwood Export Promotion from the North Eastern Region (NER) to increase India's agarwood and agarwood oil exports.
- ❖ The Northeast accounts for 96.6% of India's estimated 139.89 million agarwood trees, with Assam having the largest share.
- ❖ Assam and Tripura are the major resource centres; agarwood is used in perfumes, incense and premium oud products.

- ❖ The roadmap focuses on processing, advanced extraction, certification, traceability, branding and stronger global market links.
- ❖ An Agarwood Export Promotion Cell was formed in May 2026 to support exporters and international market development.
- ❖ Agarwood clusters are being developed in Assam and Tripura under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE).

India's Lead in Ship Recycling

- ❖ India became the world's leading ship recycling nation, increasing its global share from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025.
- ❖ India recycled 2.99 million Gross Tonnes (GT) of ships in 2025, nearly 60% higher than 1.86 million GT in 2024.
- ❖ The Alang-Sosiya cluster in Gujarat accounts for about 98% of India's ship recycling, with an annual capacity of around 6 million GT.
- ❖ The Ship Recycling Act, 2019, Ship Recycling Rules, 2021 and Ship Recycling Regulations, 2026 strengthen safety, environmental protection and regulatory compliance.
- ❖ India aligned its framework with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, which entered into force in June 2025.
- ❖ India plans to increase recycling capacity to about 9 million Light Displacement Tonnes (LDT) and has provided ₹53.5 crore for yard modernisation.



Container Production Scheme

- ❖ The government has proposed a ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) to increase domestic container production and reduce import dependence.

- ❖ The scheme will run for five years and aims to raise India's annual container production capacity to about 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).
- ❖ It will support new factories, expansion of existing units, testing infrastructure, skill development and capacity building.
- ❖ India currently imports nearly 2 million empty containers annually for domestic needs and repositioning.
- ❖ The scheme is expected to create about 3,000 direct and 50,000 indirect jobs in container manufacturing and related industries.



CONTAINER MANUFACTURING SCHEME ₹10,000 Crore Push for Global Competitiveness!

Outlay: ₹10,000 crore over 5 years

- Government aims to promote domestic manufacturing of containers **to support the high growth rate of containerized cargo**, which constitutes around two-thirds of the value of international trade.
- The proposed Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme targets annual **domestic manufacturing capacity of ~ 1 million TEUs over the next 10 years.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's Lunar Mission Partnership

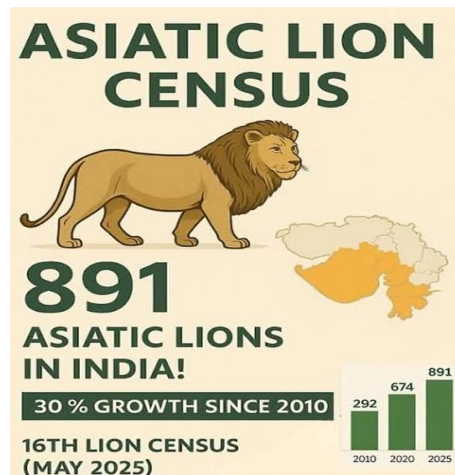
- ❖ NASA has invited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to join its Moon Base programme under the Artemis Accords.
- ❖ The invitation was discussed at the 9th India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group (CSJWG) meeting in Bengaluru.
- ❖ India signed the Artemis Accords on June 21, 2023, supporting cooperation in peaceful lunar and deep-space exploration.
- ❖ NASA and ISRO also agreed to advance open scientific data sharing under their wider civil space cooperation.

- ❖ The cooperation follows the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission launched in July 2025.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation 2026



- ❖ The 16th Lion population estimation (May 2025) recorded an increase in the Asiatic Lion population to 891 individuals across the Greater Gir landscape in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is with a growth of 32 per cent rise from 674 lions since 2020.
- ❖ It has risen to 891 in 2025 from 523 in 2015.
- ❖ It is marking an increase of more than 70 per cent in a decade.



- ❖ Historically, the Asiatic lion inhabited regions across Asia, spanning from Persia and Mesopotamia to the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Only around 40-60 lions remained in and around Gir in the early 1900s because of overhunting and habitat loss.
- ❖ India established the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary in 1965.
- ❖ The princely State of Junagadh was among the first to protect the species.
- ❖ The Government attributed the increase to strict legal protection, revival of the lions' prey base and a landscape-level conservation approach.
- ❖ Wild prey such as spotted deer, sambar, nilgai and wild pig now account for about 74 per cent of the lions' diet.
- ❖ The return of lions to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat has been a notable part of the expansion.
- ❖ As numbers rose, lions expanded into new territories, which prompted the creation of further protected zones, including Gir National Park and wildlife sanctuaries such as Girnar, Mitiyala, Pania, and Barda.
- ❖ Community participation has also been central to the conservation effort.
- ❖ Project Lion, launched in 2020, now covers about 60,000 sq km of Saurashtra.
- ❖ The Asiatic lion is a subspecies of lion scientifically known as *Panthera leo persica*.
- ❖ The lion (*Panthera leo*) is a large, powerful apex predator and the second-largest big cat species in the world, second only to the tiger.
- ❖ It's only natural wild population survives in India, mainly in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
- ❖ The species is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The global list of seven big cats includes the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- ❖ India is home to 5 of the 7 major big cat species recognized globally by the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), lacking only the Jaguar and the Puma.

STATE NEWS

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026

- ❖ The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 was introduced by the Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to change the name of the state of Kerala to "Keralam" in the First Schedule of the Constitution.



- ❖ A resolution in this regard was passed by Kerala Legislative Assembly in June 2024.
- ❖ Then, the Kerala government had forwarded to the Centre a resolution passed by the state's legislative assembly regarding the name change.
- ❖ Subsequently, the President of India referred a bill to the state legislature for expressing its views.
- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously endorsed the President's reference on the proposal.
- ❖ The legislators unanimously endorsed all queries raised by the President on the Bill's 10 clauses, including approval of its title and its provisions.
- ❖ This was the first time a Presidential reference has been sent to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for its opinion.
- ❖ Noting that the First Schedule of the Constitution recorded the State's name as 'Kerala,' the Assembly had urged the Union government to adopt steps under Article 3 of the Constitution to officially rename the State as 'Keralam.'
- ❖ Once the present bill is passed by Parliament and notified, the State's official name will be changed from Kerala to Keralam.
- ❖ Amendments will be made in the First Schedule to the Constitution by modifying the name of state of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' in accordance with article 3 of the Constitution.

Article 3 of the Constitution

- ❖ According to Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, Parliament may, by law, alter the name of any State.
- ❖ The article also states that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President.
- ❖ And unless where the proposal contained in the bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the president to the legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the president may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.
- ❖ This, in simpler terms, means that the State Assembly first passes a resolution for the change of the name and sends it to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ It is then sent for the recommendation of the President to Parliament.
- ❖ Such a Bill can only be introduced in Parliament after the President recommends it.
- ❖ The next step is to send the Bill to the affected state's legislature to get their views within a set time.

- ❖ A crucial point to note is that the State's opinion is not binding. Parliament can move forward even if the State disagrees.
- ❖ The Bill is then introduced in either the Lok Sabha (Lower House) or Rajya Sabha (Upper House) and must be passed by a simple majority, i.e. more than 50% of the members must be present and voting in any of the houses.
- ❖ Once passed by Parliament, the Bill goes back to the President for final signature.
- ❖ Once signed, it becomes an Act, and the name is officially changed in the First and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution.
- ❖ The process of changing the name of the country is significantly more complex than changing the name of a State.
- ❖ As Article 3 deals exclusively with changing the name of States, changing India's name would require a formal Constitutional Amendment under Article 368.
- ❖ Article 1 of the Constitution, which defines the country as "India that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States...", would also need to be amended.
- ❖ In order to exclusively use just one name for the country, the amendment Bill must be passed by two-thirds of members present and voting in both houses of the Parliament.
- ❖ It also requires the support of more than 50% of the total strength of each House.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has twice (in 2016 and 2020) rejected pleas to rename India to Bharat.
- ❖ It was stating that both names are already official and the Constitution refers to both 'Bharat' and 'India,' signalling that they may be used interchangeably.

**LOK SABHA PASSES BILL TO
RENAME KERALA AS
'KERALAM' BY VOICE VOTE**

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Elephant Day 2026 - August 12

- ❖ The day aims to promote elephant conservation and protection of their habitats and corridors.

- ❖ India is home to nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants, with an estimated 22,446 elephants under the 2021–25 census.
- ❖ They are protected through 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified corridors across India.
- ❖ Project Elephant, launched in 1992, supports habitat protection, scientific monitoring and measures to reduce human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ India's first DNA-based synchronised elephant census used dung samples to identify individual elephants genetically.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is "Bringing the world together to help elephants".

