



August - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India won one gold, three bronze medals and one Honourable Mention at the 23rd International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) 2026 held in Bucharest, Romania.
 - Shrilakshmi Venkatraman won the individual gold medal, while Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra won bronze medals.
- ❖ Yard 3037 Shruti, an indigenously designed and built Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) of the Shachi class, was launched for the Indian Navy at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered three new cascade frog species in Northeast India after over 15 years of research: Ammachi's Cascade Frog (*Amolops ammachi*) from Tripura, Sendenyu Cascade Frog (*Amolops sendenyu*) from Nagaland and Beautiful Cascade Frog (*Amolops bella*) from West Bengal.
 - The study also recorded five cascade frog species in India for the first time, expanding the known diversity of the genus *Amolops*.
- ❖ The rare solitary Himalayan bee *Colletes bhutanicus* was recorded in India for the first time in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India's first private, branded train, the Lucknow–Delhi Tejas Express, will run as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express from August 19 to November 11, 2026.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles," at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, covering his life journey, struggles and public service.
- ❖ International Youth Day is observed every year on 12 August to raise awareness about issues faced by youth.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Delimitation Change – TN

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution urging the Union government to keep the Lok Sabha strength at 543 seats and retain the existing inter-State distribution of seats.
- ❖ The resolution also sought to maintain the current Lok Sabha–Rajya Sabha ratio of 2.2:1.

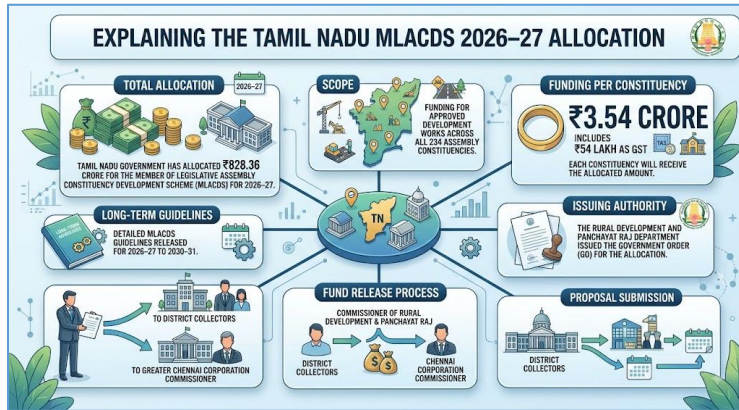
- ❖ It urged implementation of 33% reservation for women in the 2029 Lok Sabha election using the existing 543 seats, followed by reservation in State Assembly elections without delay.
- ❖ The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023 provides one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies after the Census and delimitation exercise.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's share of Lok Sabha seats is currently 7.18%; Union Home Minister Amit Shah had stated that this proportion would not be reduced even if the total number of seats increases.
- ❖ Women's representation in the Tamil Nadu Assembly has increased from 12 out of 234 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in the previous Assembly to 23.



Tamil Nadu MLACDS 2026-27

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has allocated ₹828.36 crore for the Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) for 2026-27.
- ❖ The amount will fund the approved list of development works under the scheme across all 234 Assembly constituencies.
- ❖ Each constituency will receive ₹3.54 crore, including ₹54 lakh as Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ❖ The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department issued the Government Order for the allocation.

- ❖ The government has released detailed MLACDS guidelines for 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- ❖ MLAs can submit their proposals to the District Collectors or, in Chennai, to the Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner.
- ❖ The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj will release the funds to the respective Collectors and the Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner.



Unanimous resolution on fair share of Central tax devolution



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a government resolution.
- ❖ Moving the resolution, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson called upon the Centre to adopt a transparent, objective, and equitable methodology for the devolution of Union taxes.

- ❖ It urged the Union government to ensure the State receives its due share of financial devolution from the taxes contributed to the Centre, in accordance with the constitutional principles of fiscal federalism, equity, and fairness.

Tamil Thai Vazhthu – TN Government Order



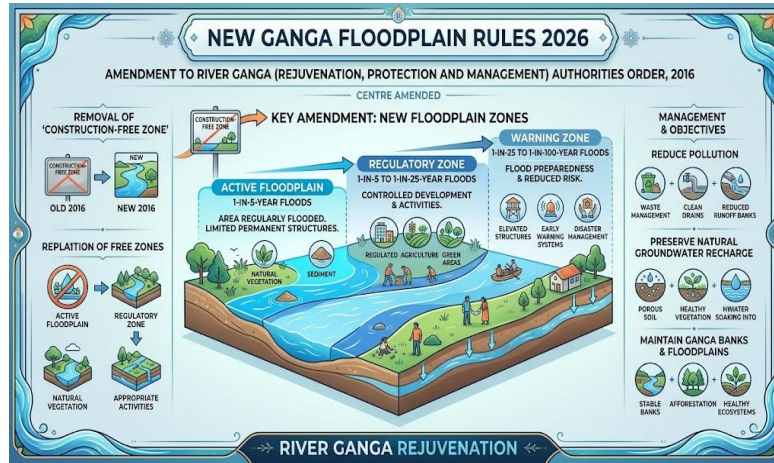
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has issued an order making the rendition of 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' (Invocation to Mother Tamil) mandatory at the beginning of programmes.
- ❖ The order applies to educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector undertakings and other public institutions across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The move follows a July 9 letter from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, asking States and Union Ministries to follow its January 28 directive to play 'Vande Mataram' before the National Anthem at official events.
- ❖ The G.O. stated that 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' must be rendered according to the guidelines issued in 2021, when it was declared the State song.
- ❖ The order was issued by Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar after the Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on August 10.
- ❖ The resolution mandated the rendition of 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' at the beginning of official events in Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL NEWS

New Ganga Floodplain Rules 2026

- ❖ The Centre amended the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, redefining the Ganga's floodplain.

- ❖ The amendment removes the term “construction-free zone” and introduces active floodplain, regulatory zone and warning zone.
- ❖ The active floodplain is the area flooded by a 1-in-5-year flood.
- ❖ The regulatory zone covers 1-in-5 to 1-in-25-year floods, while the warning zone covers 1-in-25 to 1-in-100-year floods.
- ❖ The Ganga banks and floodplains must be maintained to reduce pollution and preserve natural groundwater recharge.



Creamy Layer for SC/ST

- In **August 2024**, the **Supreme Court** allowed states to create **sub-categories within SC/ST** reservations to ensure **benefits reach the most disadvantaged** groups.
- Some **judges also suggested** that governments could consider identifying a **creamy layer** among **SCs and STs**, but this was not a binding direction.
- Following the **judgment**, **petitions** were filed in the **Supreme Court** seeking an **income-based creamy layer** for **SC/ST reservations**.

- ❖ A batch of petitions in the Supreme Court of India seek a creamy-layer exclusion within the reserved categories of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as in the Other Backwards Classes (OBC).
- ❖ The Union government argued judicial precedents had clarified that the “principles of creamy layer do not apply to SCs and STs”.



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has further told the top court in an affidavit.
- ❖ In a “majority” of welfare and development schemes for SCs, STs, and OBCs, except reservation in educational institutes and services under the State, there is already a “means test which ensures that benefits of schemes percolate to those who actually deserve them”.
- ❖ Modification of reservation policy, particularly to introduce income-based preferences within reserved categories, should be preceded by a holistic review and thorough empirical study, including socio-economic data of reserved category beneficiaries.
- ❖ The main objective of the reservation policy for SC, ST and OBC groups was to “achieve social equality and justice, overcome historical disadvantages and discrimination, ensure economic empowerment and upliftment for marginalized communities, and promote their inclusive participation in education, public services, and decision-making processes”.
- ❖ The government has said that the current matter — that of seeking an income-based creamy layer for SCs/STs — neither raises a constitutional issue nor discloses the violation of any fundamental right under the Constitution.
- ❖ The Centre said that the judgment cited in the M. Nagaraj case had merely referred to the creamy layer concept, which appeared to be a “general observation” with regard to reservations for OBCs.
- ❖ The argument that a creamy layer concept for SC and ST reservations should be introduced picked up pace after the 2024 judgment by a seven-judge Bench in State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh.
- ❖ In that verdict, Justice (Retd.) B.R. Gavai had noted in his opinion that the government “must” find a way to identify a creamy layer for SCs and STs even if the criteria for this identification were different from that for OBCs.
- ❖ The 2024 judgment had given sanction to State governments to continue with their policy of sub-categorising SC and ST quotas.
- ❖ The Centre has stressed that only Parliament can add or remove communities from the SC and ST lists, and that this is not a domain for the court to enter.
- ❖ However, the Davinder Singh judgment had distinguished between Parliament’s power to add or remove communities from the lists and the Executive’s power to simply categorise within the existing lists.

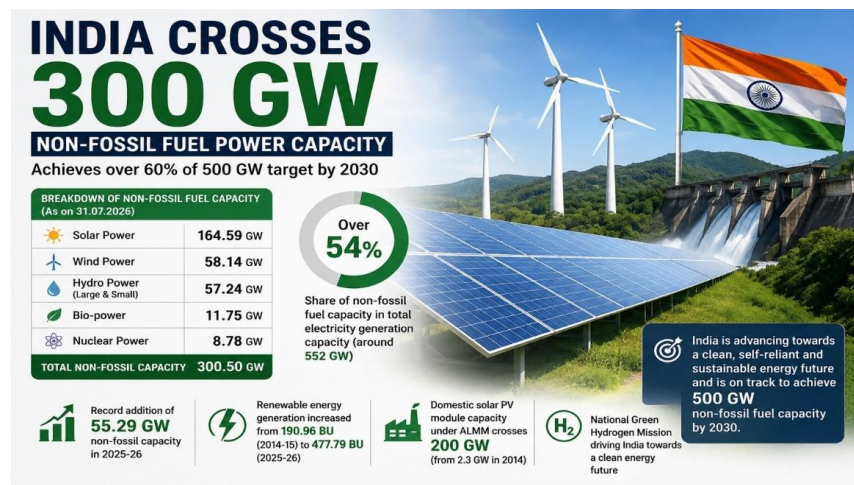
Extension for One Herb, One Standard Initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have renewed the ‘One Herb, One Standard’ initiative for another three years.

- ❖ The initiative aims to establish common scientific standards for medicinal plants used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani and Homoeopathy.
- ❖ The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for three years.
- ❖ In the first phase, launched through a 2022 MoU, the two institutions developed 50 monographs on medicinal plants.
- ❖ The renewed initiative will expand standardisation and align Indian standards with international quality requirements to improve the reliability and global acceptance of traditional medicines.



300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity



- ❖ India has officially crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity, reaching 300.50 GW as of 2026.

- ❖ The clean energy now accounts for more than 54% of India's total electricity capacity (which stands at roughly 552 GW), pushing fossil-fuel-based power below the halfway mark.
- ❖ Capacity Breakdown as per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
 - Solar Power – 164.59 GW (up from 2.8 GW in 2014)
 - Wind Power – 58.14 GW
 - Hydro Power (Large & Small) – 57.24 GW
 - Bio-power – 11.75 GW
 - Nuclear Power – 8.78 GW.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Death Penalty - Lebanon



- ❖ Lebanon's Parliament abolished the death penalty, making Lebanon the first Middle Eastern country to formally abolish capital punishment.
- ❖ The law replaces the death penalty with life imprisonment and aggravated hard labour for the most serious crimes.
- ❖ Lebanon had not carried out an execution since 2004, but death sentences were still being issued.
- ❖ The law follows years of efforts to abolish capital punishment and Lebanon's support for United Nations (UN) resolutions calling for a moratorium.

- ❖ At least 85 people were on death row in Lebanon as of January 2026, according to Amnesty International.

Mecca Joint defence agreement 2026



- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan have signed a joint defence agreement.
- ❖ It was saying an attack on one of them would be seen as an attack on all three.
- ❖ It sees three of the world's most powerful Muslim nations come together to offer mutual defence guarantees.
- ❖ After the US and Israel attacked Iran on 28 February, Tehran and its allies struck targets in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states and disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil shipping channel, and the Red Sea.
- ❖ Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia are the three Sunni-majority powers.
- ❖ It is also called as Sunni NATO.
- ❖ Turkey has Nato's second-largest military.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is the Gulf's leading military power and one of the world's biggest oil exporters.
- ❖ While Pakistan is the world's only nuclear-armed Muslim-majority country.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia and Pakistan had already announced a joint defence pact last year.
- ❖ Kuwait, another Gulf state, has also ratified a broad defence cooperation agreement with Pakistan in 2023.
- ❖ Turkey has sided with Pakistan in the Kashmir issue even after it has illegally occupied the area.

- ❖ Turkey has also helped the Islamic Republic during the four-day military retaliation by India against its sponsoring of terror in May 2025.
- ❖ Last month, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels – who control much of the north-west of the country - announced a "maritime embargo" against Saudi Arabia and targeted Saudi airports, oil facilities and tankers in the Red Sea.

ECONOMY NEWS

Polymer Currency Trial

- ❖ The government has approved the introduction of one billion polymer banknotes each of ₹10 and ₹20 for field trials.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed the polymer notes, which will be issued alongside existing paper-based banknotes.
- ❖ The notes will first undergo field trials; regular issuance will depend on the successful completion of these trials.
- ❖ The procurement process is still at an initial stage, so the exact launch date and cost are not yet fixed.
- ❖ Polymer banknotes are being introduced to test an alternative to paper-based currency in the ₹10 and ₹20 denominations.
- ❖ The proposal was made under Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

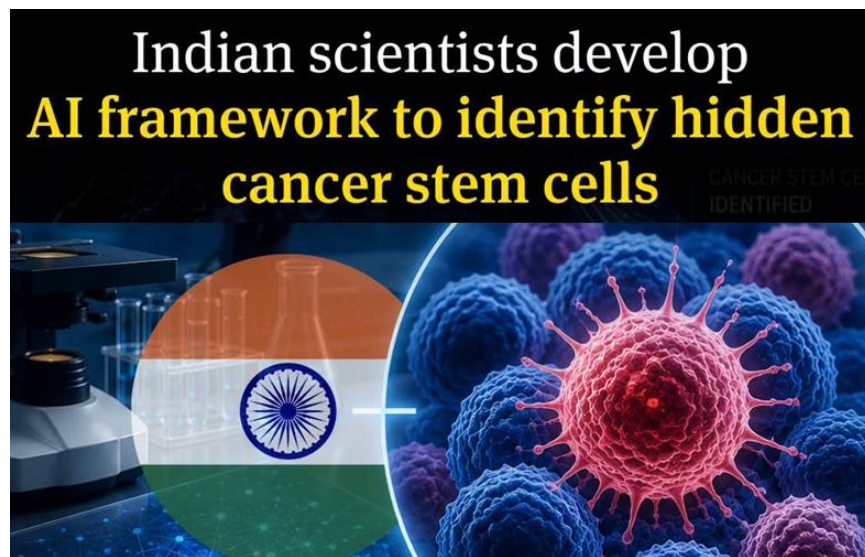


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New AI Cancer Framework

- ❖ Researchers from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS) and Ashoka University have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) framework to identify hidden cancer stem-like cells.

- ❖ The new framework, ACSCeND (AI-based Cancer Stem-like Cell Profiler and Neoplasm Deconvoluter), identifies three developmental states: pluripotent-like, multipotent-like and unipotent-like.
- ❖ It can analyse conventional bulk tumour RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) sequencing data, allowing hidden cell populations to be studied across thousands of patient samples.
- ❖ Researchers applied ACSCeND to more than 25,000 tumour samples from databases including TCGA (The Cancer Genome Atlas) and PRECOG.
- ❖ Tumours with highly potent, pluripotent-like cancer stem cells were associated with poorer survival, higher tumour recurrence and reduced response to immunotherapy.
- ❖ The framework could help identify patients at higher risk of relapse and support the development of precision cancer therapies.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026

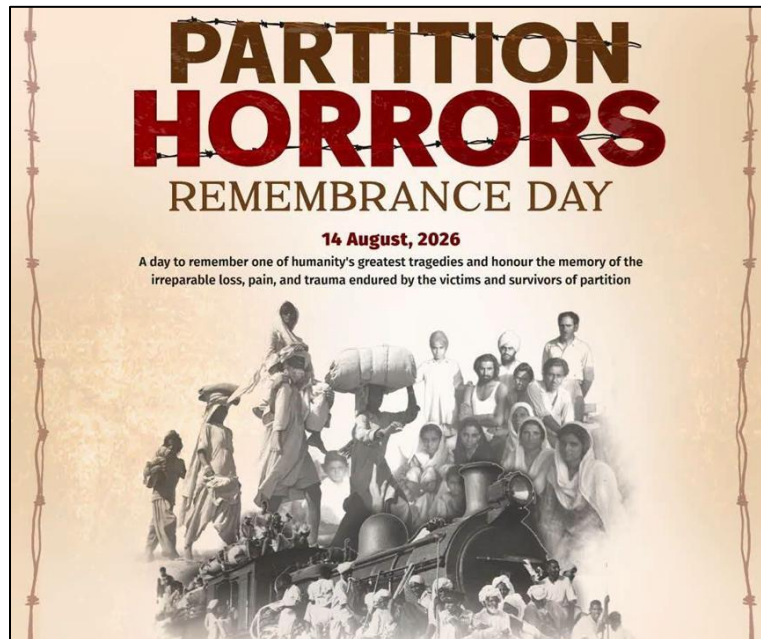
- ❖ The Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 were presented on 13 August 2026 during World Elephant Day celebrations in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Seven mahouts from Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal, received the awards for elephant and wildlife rescue work.
- ❖ Bikash Kharia and Rajiv Oraon rescued 6 stranded captive elephants during severe floods.
- ❖ Ajibul Haque, Ajit Gabur, Momtaz Alam, Amasur Kharia and Dilip Munda guided 13 displaced wild rhinoceroses to safety.

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released “30 Giant Steps”, covering 30 achievements under Project Elephant (2020–2026).
- ❖ A ₹500 crore Regional Action Plan was launched to manage human–elephant conflict in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2026 - August 14



- ❖ The day aims to remember the victims and survivors of the Partition of India in 1947.
- ❖ The Partition accompanied the end of British rule and led to the creation of India and Pakistan under the Indian Independence Act, 1947.



- ❖ Lord Mountbatten announced the Partition Plan on June 3, 1947, while the boundary between India and Pakistan was drawn by the Radcliffe Commission.
- ❖ Partition triggered one of the largest mass migrations in modern history, with millions of people moving across the newly created borders.
- ❖ The Government of India declared August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in 2021.
- ❖ The 1947 Partition led to mass migration, communal violence, killings, abductions, property destruction and separation of families, especially in Punjab and Bengal.

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