



August - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has flagged off the NCC (National Cadet Corps) 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026', a 250-km trek with 28 girl cadets crossing the 5,578-metre Parang La Pass between Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
 - Parang La Pass is a high-altitude pass in the Trans-Himalayan region and is an important geographical feature connecting Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
- ❖ 16-year-old Lakshmanan Meyyappan from Dubai became the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant at the age of 16 years and 141 days, according to Guinness World Records.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will develop the Vetri Paathai app at a cost of ₹20 lakh for students preparing for competitive examinations.
 - The app will cover examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has announced official vehicles and a monthly ₹1 lakh allowance for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including ₹75,000 for fuel, driver and vehicle expenses.
 - The remaining ₹25,000 will be provided to hire a personal assistant for constituency work.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Health Insurance Expansion

TN Assembly: Annual coverage under CM Health Insurance hiked to Rs 25 lakh

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday announced an increase in the annual coverage under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu increased the coverage under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh.

- ❖ Medical services and surgeries for transgender women will be provided at Stanley Medical College, Chennai and selected medical college hospitals.
- ❖ The hospitals are in Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Chengalpattu, Tiruvarur, Dharmapuri and Kanniyakumari.
- ❖ A 400-bed multi-super-speciality hospital will be built in Perambur at a cost of ₹300 crore.
- ❖ The Chief Minister's Cancer Care Mission will be upgraded with ₹673.44 crore.
- ❖ Seven nursing colleges and additional seats in nursing, pharmacy and paramedical courses will be created at a cost of ₹351 crore.

Tamil Nadu Road Safety Mission

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will launch the Chief Minister's Road Safety Mission at a cost of ₹500 crore per year to reduce road accident deaths.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was reported to have the highest number of road accidents among States in India.
- ❖ Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras will be installed on State and National Highways to detect speeding and traffic violations.
- ❖ Under the Corridor Accident Response and Emergency programme, 25 government hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) will be upgraded as emergency response centres.
- ❖ 25 accident-prone locations will be monitored and linked with these medical facilities.

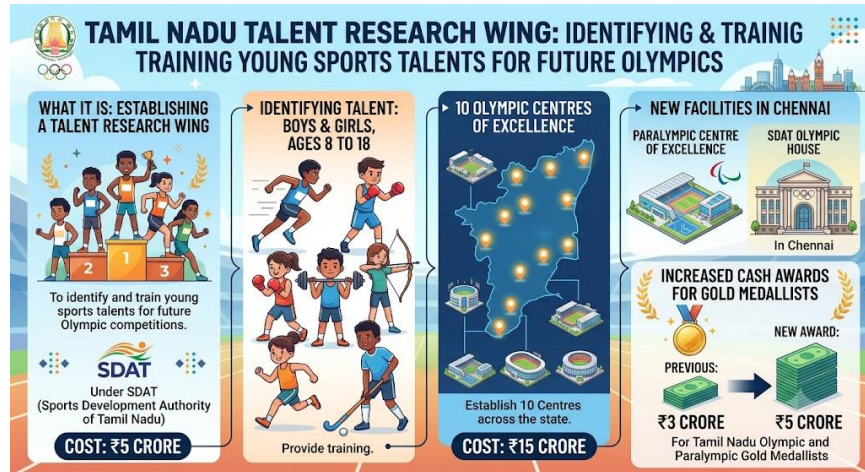
TN Allocates ₹250 Crore For Safer Roads

Tamil Nadu Govt has launched the Safe Roads Mission and revamped the Namma Salai mobile app to improve road safety and speed up road maintenance. The highways budget has been increased to ₹21,524 crore, with ₹250 crore earmarked for repairing damaged roads through performance-based contracts. The mission will use AI for traffic enforcement, strengthen trauma care, and expand road infrastructure across the state.

Tamil Nadu Talent Research Wing

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will set up a Talent Research Wing to identify and train young sports talents for future Olympic competitions.

- ❖ The wing will be established under the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) at a cost of ₹5 crore.
- ❖ It will identify talented boys and girls aged 8 to 18 years and provide training.
- ❖ 10 Olympic Centres of Excellence will be established at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ A Paralympic Centre of Excellence and an SDAT Olympic House will also be established in Chennai.
- ❖ The cash award for Tamil Nadu Olympic and Paralympic gold medallists will increase from ₹3 crore to ₹5 crore.



Raised Crop Loan Waiver in Tamilnadu

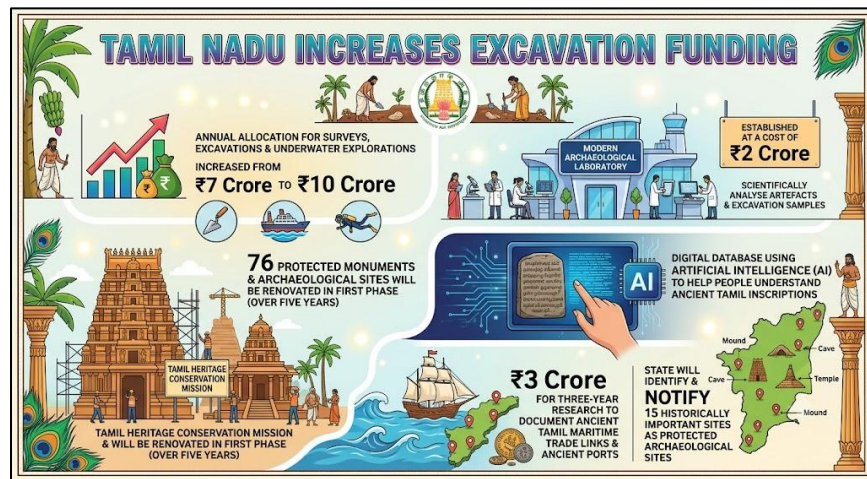


- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a revised crop loan waiver, increasing the limit for marginal, small and other farmers from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.
- ❖ Loans between ₹75,000 and ₹1 lakh will receive a maximum waiver of ₹75,000.
- ❖ For loans above ₹1 lakh, the maximum waiver will be ₹35,000.

- ❖ The government will provide a total crop loan waiver of ₹6,220 crore to about 13.34 lakh farmers.
- ❖ Of the earlier waiver amount of ₹5,932.23 crore, ₹5,267 crore had already been credited to 13.34 lakh farmers.
- ❖ The additional waiver will cost the government about ₹953.06 crore and was announced under Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Increased Excavation Funding in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has increased the annual allocation for archaeological surveys, excavations and underwater explorations from ₹7 crore to ₹10 crore.
- ❖ A modern archaeological laboratory will be established at a cost of ₹2 crore to scientifically analyse artefacts and excavation samples.
- ❖ Under the Tamil Heritage Conservation Mission, 76 protected monuments and archaeological sites will be renovated in the first phase over five years.
- ❖ A digital database using Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be created to help people understand ancient Tamil inscriptions.
- ❖ ₹3 crore will be spent on three-year research to document ancient Tamil maritime trade links and ancient ports.
- ❖ The State will also identify and notify 15 historically important sites as protected archaeological sites.



Southern Zonal Council Meeting 2026

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The council included Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, along with Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The meeting discussed issues requiring coordination between the Centre and southern States and Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ The Southern Zonal Council was established under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, as a forum for Centre-State and inter-State discussions.
- ❖ It served as an advisory body to address regional issues, coordinate development projects and promote cooperation.

**Union Minister
Amit Shah to chair
31st meeting of the
Southern Zonal Council**

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20th August 2026

**Mahabalipuram,
Tamil Nadu**

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Buffalo Meat Exports

- ❖ India's buffalo meat exports rose 25.6% to \$5.1 billion in 2025–26, making it the country's best-performing agricultural export item.
- ❖ Exports grew 66.6% in April–June 2026 to nearly \$1.5 billion, while the average value rose to \$4,392 per tonne.
- ❖ Export markets have diversified, with Egypt, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Iraq and Russia becoming important buyers alongside Vietnam and Malaysia.

- ❖ India has 83 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)-approved integrated abattoirs-cum-meat processing plants for exports.
- ❖ Buffalo meat exports also support the dairy sector by providing a market for old, infertile or low-milk-yielding buffaloes, helping farmers replace them with productive animals.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EU Carbon Tax - BRICS



- ❖ The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Environment Ministers opposed the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) at their 12th meeting in New Delhi.

- ❖ BRICS said such carbon-border measures could affect developing countries climate action and resilience efforts.
- ❖ CBAM covers carbon-intensive imports such as iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, hydrogen and electricity.
- ❖ The ministers called for increased adaptation finance from developed countries to help developing nations deal with climate impacts.
- ❖ They urged developed countries to provide finance through grants and concessional finance without increasing developing countries' financial burden.
- ❖ They also called for developed countries to meet the commitment to triple adaptation finance by 2035.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's First Commercial EO Constellation

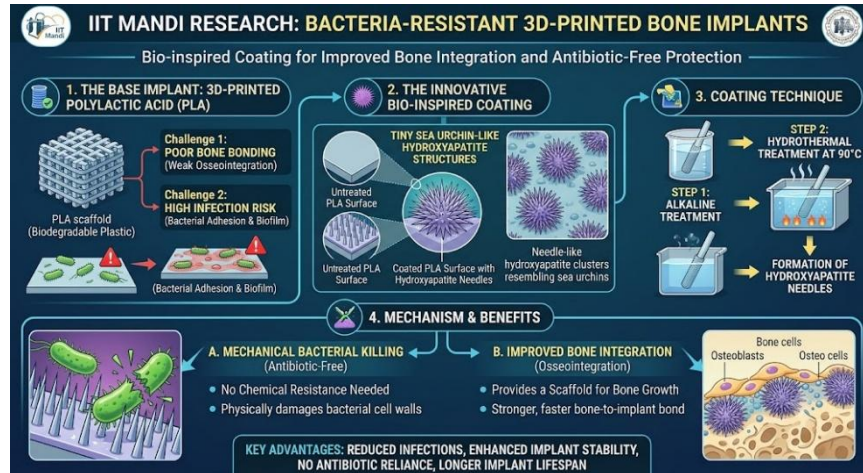


- ❖ IN-SPACE approved India's first fully commercial indigenous Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- ❖ Allied Orbits Private Limited, led by Pixxel Space India, includes Dhruva Space, PierSight Space and SatSure Analytics India.

- ❖ The consortium will invest over ₹1,200 crore to develop and operate 12 satellites by 2029.
- ❖ The satellites will provide panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging.
- ❖ All satellites will be manufactured in India and launched using Indian launch vehicles.

Bacteria-Resistant Bone Implantation

- ❖ Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi developed a bio-inspired coating for three-dimensional (3D)-printed bone implants.
- ❖ The coating uses tiny hydroxyapatite structures that resemble sea urchins and can mechanically damage bacteria.
- ❖ The implants use polylactic acid (PLA), a biodegradable plastic, but its surface does not easily bond with bones.
- ❖ The new coating improves bone integration and helps reduce bacterial infection without relying on antibiotics or antibacterial chemicals.
- ❖ The technique involves treating the implant with an alkaline solution followed by hydrothermal treatment at 90°C, forming needle-like hydroxyapatite clusters.

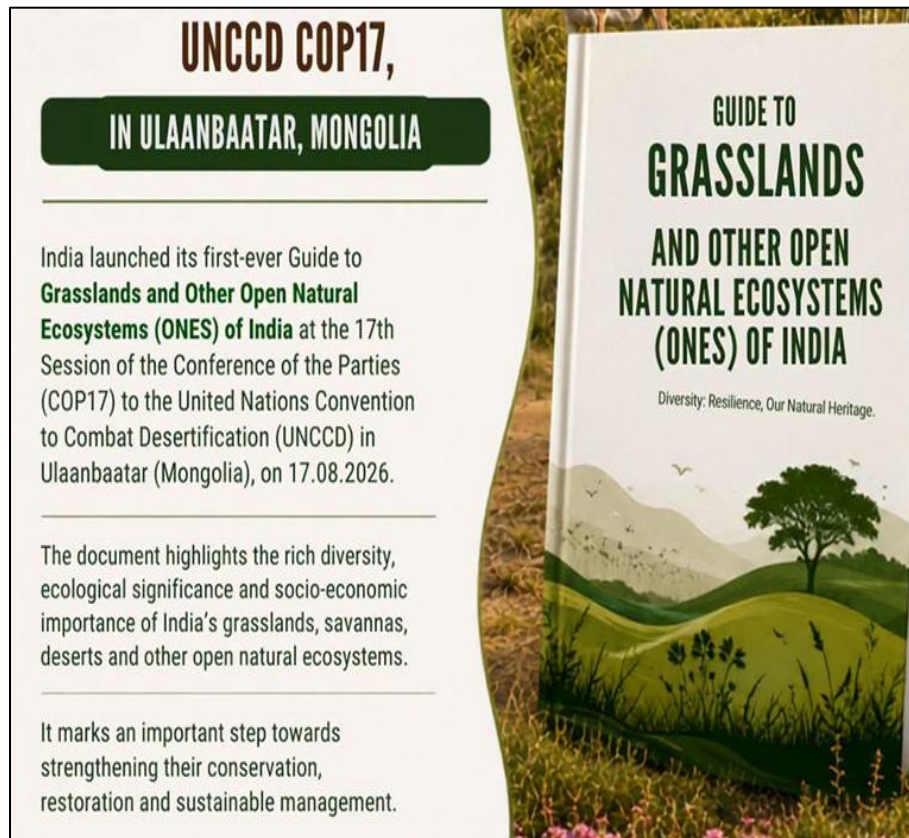


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India's First Grasslands Guide

- ❖ India launched its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- ❖ The guide covers India's grasslands, savannas, deserts and other open natural ecosystems.
- ❖ It includes information on their geography, ecology, biodiversity and associated communities and tribes.
- ❖ The guide highlights the importance of conserving these ecosystems along with forests.
- ❖ It is intended for policymakers, researchers, conservation groups, development agencies and local communities.

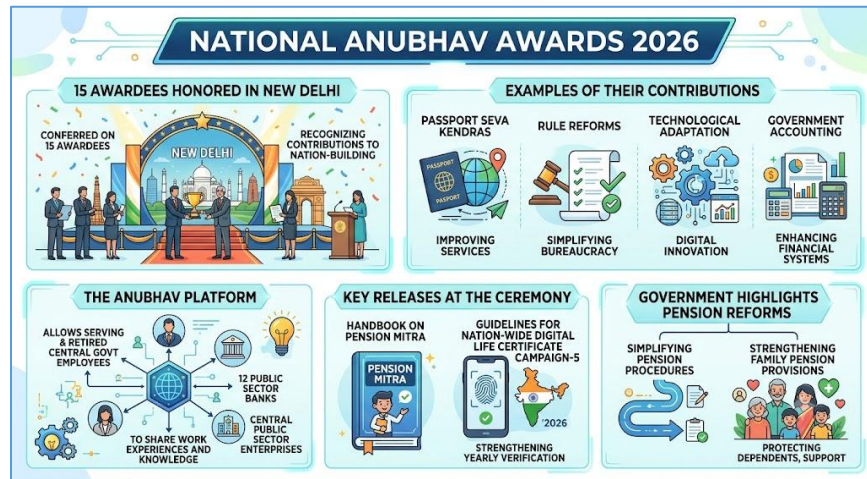


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Anubhav Awards 2026

- ❖ The National Anubhav Awards 2026 were conferred on 15 awardees in New Delhi for their contributions to nation-building.
- ❖ The awardees contributed to projects including Passport Seva Kendras, rule reforms, technological adaptation and government accounting.

- ❖ The Anubhav platform allows serving and retired Central Government employees, 12 Public Sector Banks and Central Public Sector Enterprises to share their work experiences.
- ❖ The Handbook on Pension Mitra and guidelines for the Nation-wide Digital Life Certificate Campaign-5 were also released.
- ❖ The government highlighted reforms to simplify pension procedures and strengthen family pension provisions.



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