

August - 22

TAMIL NADU NEWS

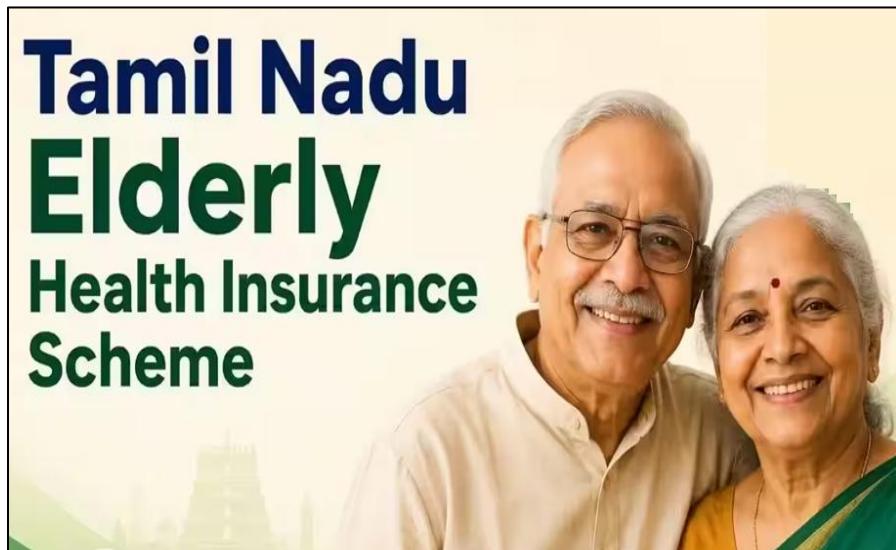
TN Cooperative Sector Reforms



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Minister for Cooperation V. Gandhiraj announced several measures for the Cooperation Department in the 2026 State Budget, including a new State Cooperative Policy and welfare and business initiatives.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will formulate a State Cooperative Policy to make cooperative institutions people-centric, transparent, economically sustainable and competitive.
- ❖ The Singa Pengal Loan Scheme will be implemented through cooperative banks with an allocation of ₹7,015 crore to promote women as entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Rural business loans will be provided to farmers at 9% interest to start agriculture-allied businesses, with ₹5,000 crore allocated for the initiative.
- ❖ A common business brand called 'Vettri' will be introduced to improve the quality, marketing, market share and profits of products manufactured by cooperatives.
- ❖ 150 permanent buildings will be constructed for Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets functioning in rented premises at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ A new agricultural produce auction centre will be established on 5,084 sq. ft. of land at Aykudi village in Koothanallur taluk of Tiruvarur district, at a cost of ₹53 lakh.
- ❖ Petrol, diesel and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations will be established at cooperative society premises in Mayiladuthurai and Dindigul districts, at a cost of ₹50 lakh.

- ❖ E-auction systems will be introduced in 80 cooperative producers' cooperative marketing societies at an estimated cost of ₹25 lakh.
- ❖ Women will be given priority in the appointment of salespersons for 105 newly established fair-price shops.
- ❖ The sale of fertilisers and seeds supplied to farmers through the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation (TANFED) will be increased from the current ₹898 crore to ₹2,500 crore.
- ❖ To improve transparency, Light Emitting Diode (LED) boards will be installed in 100 fair-price shops in the first phase at an estimated cost of ₹20 lakh to display stock details.
- ❖ A real-time vehicle tracking system will be introduced for vehicles transporting essential commodities at a cost of ₹2 crore.

Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will launch the Chief Minister's Elderly Health Insurance Scheme for nearly 38 lakh senior citizens aged 70 years and above.
- ❖ The scheme will provide free medical treatment at empanelled government and private hospitals, irrespective of the beneficiary's income.
- ❖ It will cover major treatments including cancer care, advanced cardiac surgeries, organ transplants and high-end diagnostic services.
- ❖ Senior citizens aged 70 years and above will be enrolled under the scheme without any income eligibility condition.
- ❖ The scheme is expected to be integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

- ❖ In 2024, the Union government expanded AB-PMJAY to provide health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their income.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) was integrated with AB-PMJAY in 2018.
- ❖ The new scheme aims to strengthen healthcare access for the elderly as India's ageing population continues to increase.
- ❖ By 2050, nearly one in five people in India is projected to be aged 60 years or above.

Southern Zonal Council meeting update



- ❖ The 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting was held at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, and was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said southern States contribute over 30% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and called for fair and equitable treatment in fiscal devolution.
- ❖ He said the next Finance Commission should consider both the needs and performance of States, including development, fiscal discipline and demographic transition.
- ❖ He called for greater flexibility for States in taxation after the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and referred to Article 279A(4)(e) of the Constitution.
- ❖ On inter-State rivers, he stressed protecting the rights of lower-riparian States and implementing Supreme Court judgments, tribunal awards and statutory mechanisms; he also highlighted the Cauvery and Mullai Periyar issues.



- ❖ He proposed common economic and logistics clusters among southern States, citing the proposed Bengaluru Metro extension from Bommasandra to Hosur, and called for greater focus on the maritime economy and Blue Economy.

NATIONAL NEWS

State of Karnataka and Anr. v. Prathik Parasrampuria

ECI Affidavit Shows Lakhs Of Election Blackmoney Cases, But Low Convictions; Supreme Court Mandates High Court Approval To Withdraw Prosecution

- ❖ The Supreme Court, in State of Karnataka & Anr. v. Prathik Parasrampuria, issued directions to curb the use of unaccounted money in elections.
- ❖ The case arose from the 2014 Lok Sabha bye-election in Bellary, Karnataka, where ₹20.48 lakh in cash and other materials were seized from Prathik Parasrampuria.
- ❖ The Court directed that election-related cash or asset seizures must be reported to the District Magistrate (DM), Additional District Magistrate (ADM) or competent court within 24 hours, with written reasons.
- ❖ Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) detecting cash above ₹10 lakh must immediately inform the Income Tax authorities.
- ❖ Investigations into election-related offences should be completed within one year; delays must be recorded and reported to the Election Commission of India (ECI) through quarterly progress reports.
- ❖ High Court approval is mandatory before withdrawing election-related criminal cases against candidates, and High Courts were directed to designate special courts for speedy disposal of such cases.

- ❖ The ECI and State Governments were directed to submit compliance reports by November 18, 2026.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sahel Lithium Conflict

- ❖ Growing lithium extraction in Africa's Sahel region is creating opportunities for armed groups to profit from the mineral trade.
- ❖ Lithium is important for electric vehicle (EV) batteries, smartphones and renewable energy storage, increasing global demand for the mineral.
- ❖ Armed groups in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Nigeria are exploiting weak governance, informal mining and cross-border smuggling to raise revenue.
- ❖ The study found that groups can tax miners, traders and transporters and control access to mining areas.
- ❖ Stronger mining regulation, mineral-tracking systems and domestic lithium processing are needed to prevent lithium revenues from financing conflicts.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Himalayan Plant - Impatiens nimspurjai

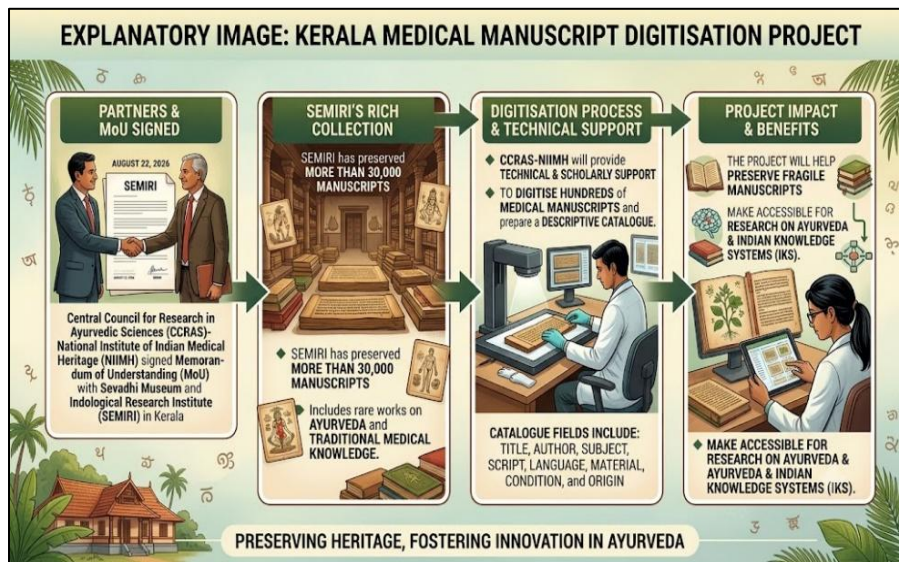
- ❖ A new Himalayan flowering plant has been named Impatiens nimspurjai after Nepali mountaineer Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja.
- ❖ The plant was first observed in 2011 in Nepal's western Myagdi district and was formally described after more than a decade of study.
- ❖ Impatiens nimspurjai belongs to the genus Impatiens and the family Balsaminaceae.

- ❖ It grows on humid slopes and forest margins at an altitude of about 2,800–2,900 metres in the Himalayas.
- ❖ The name honours Purja's mountaineering achievements and environmental work through the Nimsdai Foundation.



STATE NEWS

Manuscript Digitization - Kerala



- ❖ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)-National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sevadhi Museum and Indological Research Institute (SEMIRI) in Kerala to digitise medical manuscripts.

- ❖ SEMIRI has preserved more than 30,000 manuscripts, including rare works on Ayurveda and traditional medical knowledge.
- ❖ CCRAS-NIIMH will provide technical and scholarly support to digitise hundreds of medical manuscripts and prepare a descriptive catalogue.
- ❖ The catalogue will include details such as title, author, subject, script, language, material, condition and origin of the manuscripts.
- ❖ The project will help preserve fragile manuscripts and make them accessible for research on Ayurveda and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS).

Notifiable disease in Maharashtra - Snakebite



- ❖ Maharashtra declared snakebite a notifiable disease, making reporting of all suspected, probable and confirmed cases and deaths mandatory.
- ❖ Government and private hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare practitioners must report cases through the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- ❖ The notification requires details such as the bite date and location, patient age and gender, symptoms of envenomation, and the quantity of Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) administered.
- ❖ Maharashtra recorded around 1.29 lakh snakebite cases and 655 deaths between April 2023 and March 2026.

- ❖ The decision followed a 9 August 2026 snakebite incident at a government-aided residential school in Gadchiroli, where three tribal schoolgirls died, and three were hospitalised.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

PMIS Award 2026



- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has received the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) Recognition of Partner Company Award for Innovation in Exit Pathways.
- ❖ POWERGRID, a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ The award recognised POWERGRID for uploading training details of all PMIS interns on the Rozgaar portal of the Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) for employment and placement support.
- ❖ The PMIS was launched in December 2024 as a national internship initiative for youth and industry engagement.
- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs hosted the PMIS Industry Awards at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

- ❖ Mahindra & Mahindra Limited was named Overall Industry Champion, while IBM India Private Limited received the Innovation in Program Implementation Award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Mosquito Day – August 20

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about mosquito-borne diseases and their prevention.
- ❖ The day commemorates Sir Ronald Ross, who in 1897 discovered that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria parasites to humans.
- ❖ Sir Ronald Ross was a British-Indian physician and scientist who was born in 1857 in Almora, India.
- ❖ He received the 1902 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on malaria, becoming the first British Nobel laureate in medicine.
- ❖ Major mosquito-borne diseases include malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and Zika virus disease.
- ❖ Malaria is mainly transmitted by infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, while dengue and chikungunya are mainly spread by Aedes mosquitoes.

