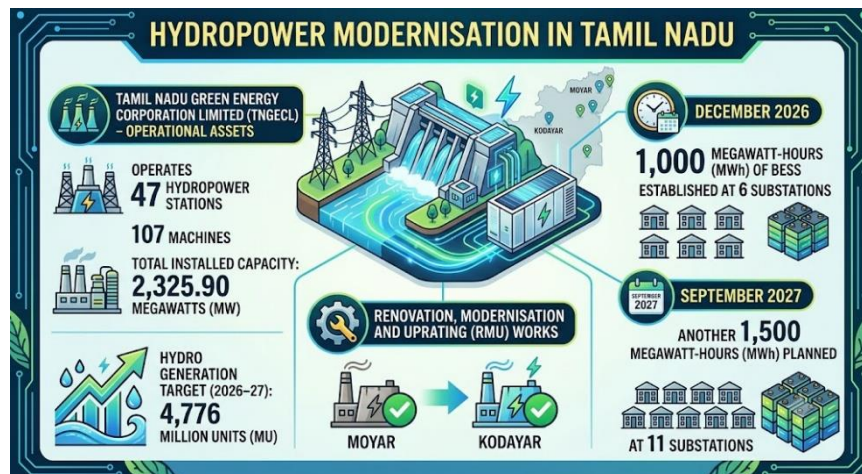


August - 25

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Hydropower Modernisation in TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is upgrading hydropower projects and expanding battery storage to meet rising electricity demand and improve grid reliability.
- ❖ For 2026–27, Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) has a hydro generation target of 4,776 million units (MU).
- ❖ TNGECL operates 47 hydropower stations with 107 machines and a total installed capacity of 2,325.90 megawatts (MW).
- ❖ Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating (RMU) works are being carried out at old stations, including Moyar and Kodayar.
- ❖ The state is establishing 1,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at six substations, targeted for commissioning by December 2026.
- ❖ Another 1,500 MWh of BESS is planned at 11 substations, with commissioning targeted by September 2027.



### Fifth-Century Hero Stones

- ❖ A 5th-century hero stone inscription from the Sangam period has been unearthed at Malayadipatti village, Tenkasi district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The discovery was made during excavations by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA).
- ❖ The stone was found inside a stepped brick well that was in use during the Sangam period and was later filled with stones and bricks.

- ❖ The hero stone is 1 metre long and 0.30 metre wide and has four lines of inscription.
- ❖ Its script represents a transitional stage from Tamil-Brahmi to Vattezhuthu.
- ❖ The inscription mentions Karukkan, Sulagan, Nannang and Kodiyan and indicates that it commemorates Nannang Kodiyan, son of Karukkan Sulagan.
- ❖ Archaeologists said hero stones of the Sangam and post-Sangam periods generally did not have warrior figures, and this stone also has no warrior depiction.
- ❖ Other Sangam-period hero stones without warrior figures have been found at Pulimankombai, Aappanur and Mallikapuram.
- ❖ Excavations at Malayadipatti have also recovered artefacts that provide information about the life, occupations and trade of people during the Sangam period.



### **Fort St. George Heritage Restoration**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has announced plans to restore the 230-year-old Exchange Building at Fort St. George in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The building also houses a colonial-era museum, which will be renovated along with the restoration work.
- ❖ The Exchange Building was completed in 1795 and originally housed the Madras Bank; its upper hall served as the Public Exchange Hall.
- ❖ The museum contains colonial-period weapons, coins, medals, uniforms, documents and other historical artefacts from India and Europe.
- ❖ Fort St. George, established by the English East India Company in the 17th century, is an important historical landmark of Chennai.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### New Defence Indigenisation List

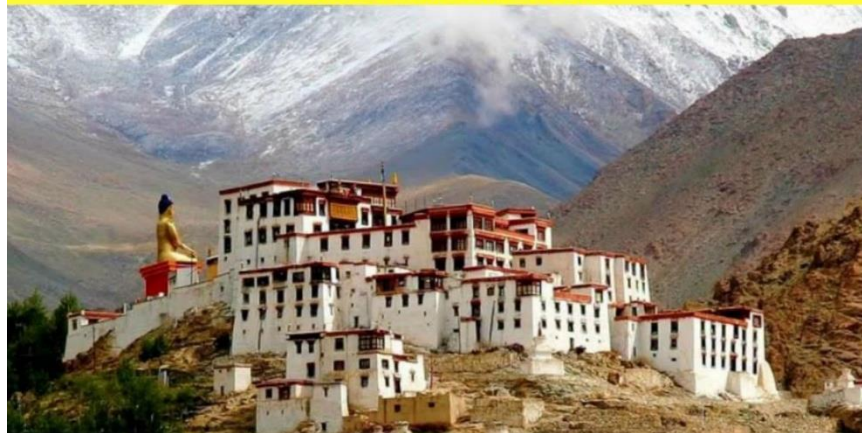


- ❖ The Department of Defence Production (DDP) notified the 6th Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) covering 405 strategically important defence items, with an estimated business potential of ₹3,070 crore.

- ❖ 389 items are for Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), and 16 items are for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ❖ The list includes Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), sub-systems, spares, components and raw materials used in platforms such as Su-30MKI, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), T-72, T-90 and warships.
- ❖ The items will be indigenised through Make procedures and in-house Research and Development (R&D) and will then be procured from Indian vendors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups.
- ❖ The details and timelines are available on the SRIJAN Defence Portal, launched in August 2020 to promote import substitution and domestic defence manufacturing.

### **Ladakh Bench**

#### **THE UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED SETTING UP A JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGH COURT BENCH IN LADAKH**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a permanent bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ The High Court currently has seats at Srinagar and Jammu; the Ladakh bench will become its third judicial location.
- ❖ The bench will improve access to justice for people in remote areas of Ladakh by reducing the need to travel to Jammu or Srinagar.
- ❖ As of 30 July 2026, the High Court had 44,557 pending cases, including more than 6,100 cases pending for over 10 years.
- ❖ Ladakh became a Union Territory on 31 October 2019 after the reorganisation of the former State of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is a common High Court for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ❖ The Bombay High Court has its principal seat in Mumbai and benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad, Panaji and Kolhapur, making five locations in total.
- ❖ The Aurangabad Bench is officially known as the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Bench.
- ❖ The Panaji Bench serves the State of Goa, while the other locations serve different regions of Maharashtra.
- ❖ High Court benches are established to make justice more accessible to people living far from the principal seat.
- ❖ The Bombay High Court was established in 1862 under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861.

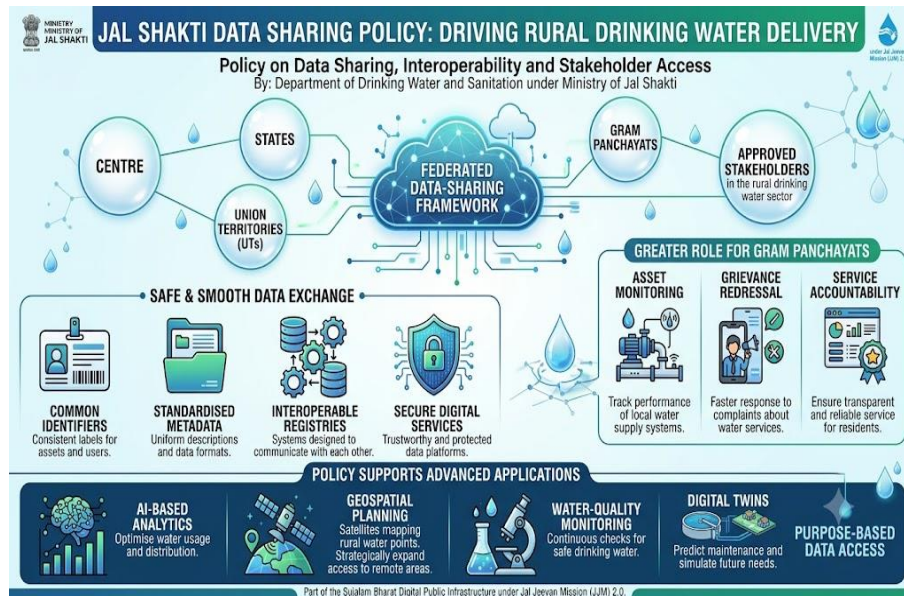
### **CAA Citizenship Processing**



- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has empowered District Collectors in eight States/Union Territories (UTs) to process pending citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.
- ❖ The eight jurisdictions are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam (except tribal areas), Tripura (except tribal areas), Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

- ❖ The Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on August 19, 2026, allow Collectors to process applications under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act.
- ❖ The CAA covers Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- ❖ Collectors can verify documents, conduct enquiries, administer the Oath of Allegiance and grant citizenship to eligible applicants.
- ❖ Pending applications will be transferred from the earlier Empowered Committees/District Level Committees to the concerned Collectors.

### Jal Shakti Data Sharing Policy



- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti released the Policy on Data Sharing, Interoperability and Stakeholder Access in New Delhi.
- ❖ The policy creates a federated data-sharing framework for the Centre, States, Union Territories (UTs), Gram Panchayats and approved stakeholders in the rural drinking water sector.
- ❖ It uses common identifiers, standardised metadata, interoperable registries and secure digital services for safe and smooth data exchange.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats will have a greater role in asset monitoring, grievance redressal and service accountability.
- ❖ The policy supports Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based analytics, geospatial planning, water-quality monitoring and Digital Twins through purpose-based data access.

- ❖ It is part of the Sujalam Bharat Digital Public Infrastructure under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, aimed at improving rural drinking water service delivery.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India–Brazil Digital Partnership

- ❖ India and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on telecommunications and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in Pune.
- ❖ The agreement covers Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G, 6G, Open Radio Access Network (Open RAN), Internet of Things (IoT) and cybersecurity.
- ❖ It also includes cooperation in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Direct-to-Device connectivity, spectrum management and Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.
- ❖ The MoU was signed during the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting and BRICS ICT Track Meeting.
- ❖ It is the second bilateral agreement between the communications ministries of India and Brazil in 2026.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Swift Rescue Mission

- ❖ NASA abandoned its attempt to rescue the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory after the rescue spacecraft LINK developed control problems.

- ❖ LINK, developed by Katalyst Space, was launched on 3 July 2026 to boost Swift's declining orbit.
- ❖ Some of LINK's reaction wheels failed, causing it to spin out of control; efforts to stabilise it with thrusters failed.
- ❖ Swift, launched in 2004, studies gamma-ray bursts and other high-energy cosmic events.
- ❖ Without an orbital boost, Swift is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere before the end of 2026.



## **STATE NEWS**

### **Tilapia Exports - Chhattisgarh**

- ❖ Chhattisgarh became the first inland State in India to begin exporting value-added Tilapia fish products.
- ❖ The State exported 382 tonnes of Tilapia products to the United States.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has invested nearly ₹900 crore in fisheries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ❖ The State's fish production has reached about 10 lakh tonnes, using inland water resources such as ponds, reservoirs and tanks.
- ❖ A review meeting on the Tilapia cluster was held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

- ❖ Tilapia is a freshwater fish widely farmed through ponds, tanks, cages and other aquaculture systems.



### Analogue Paneer Ban - Karnataka



- ❖ Karnataka has banned the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of analogue paneer as “paneer” across the state for one year, from August 17, 2026 to August 17, 2027.
- ❖ Analogue paneer is a non-dairy product made using vegetable oil, vegetable fat or other non-dairy ingredients instead of milk fat or milk solids.
- ❖ The order was issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, mainly invoking Sections 30(2)(a), 18 and 29.



- ❖ The ban does not cover standardised products such as processed cheese, frozen desserts and mixed fat spreads, which have separate food categories.
- ❖ Karnataka joins Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in restricting analogue paneer.

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