



August - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Two Tamil Nadu teachers, M Thangaraj of Tenkasi and J Amudha, Headmistress of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Madurai, have been selected for the National Teachers' Award 2026 by the Union Government.
 - Thangaraj improved school infrastructure and introduced activity-based learning, while Amudha has promoted education and National Cadet Corps (NCC) activities during her service in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
- ❖ The Territorial Army (TA) of the Indian Army, in collaboration with CyberPeace, launched the 3rd edition of Terrier Cyber Quest (TCQ 3.0), a national-level defence hackathon to develop indigenous cybersecurity solutions and strengthen India's cyber defence.
- ❖ Aisha Wahab won a special election in California and became the first Afghan-American elected to the United States (US) Congress.
- ❖ Pakistan has proposed Mumbai-based Parsi doctors Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel (physician) and Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo (radiologist) for the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honour, for their role in examining Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1946.
- ❖ World Senior Citizens Day is observed every year on August 21 to recognise the contributions of older people and raise awareness about their dignity, well-being and rights.
- ❖ The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed every year on 22 August to remember victims of violence based on religion or belief, protect their human rights, and promote tolerance, interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Madras HC - Bypoll Restraint

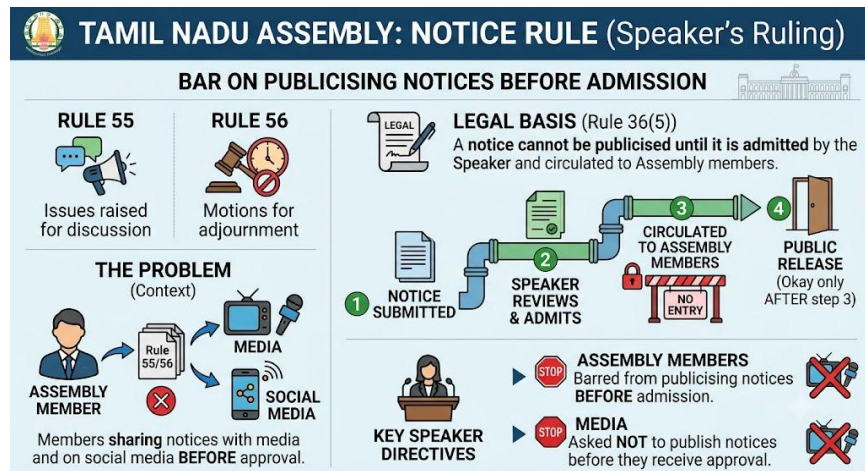
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) told the Madras High Court that it will not conduct by-elections in five Tamil Nadu Assembly constituencies until the related election petitions are decided.
- ❖ The constituencies are Tiruchi East, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Viralimalai and Karur.
- ❖ Election petitions were filed in all five constituencies, with petitioners also seeking to be declared as the elected candidates.

- ❖ The ECI cited Section 84 and Section 151-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, along with Supreme Court rulings.
- ❖ The Madras High Court extended its interim order restraining the ECI from notifying the bypolls until September 8, 2026.
- ❖ The five seats became vacant after the elected candidates resigned following the May 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election.

Madras High Court halts ECI from notifying bypolls to five Tamil Nadu Assembly seats



Tamil Nadu Assembly Notice Rule



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker has barred members and the media from publicising notices submitted under Rule 55 and Rule 56 before they are admitted.

- ❖ Rule 55 deals with issues raised for discussion, while Rule 56 covers motions for adjournment.
- ❖ The Speaker said members were sharing such notices with the media and on social media before approval.
- ❖ Rule 36(5) states that a notice cannot be publicised until it is admitted by the Speaker and circulated to Assembly members.
- ❖ The Speaker also asked the media not to publish such notices before they receive approval.

Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced the Annapoorani Super Six Scheme in the State Assembly on August 24, 2026, with the scheme planned to begin on Pongal Day in January 2027.
- ❖ The scheme will reimburse eligible families for domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders, with the amount transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ❖ Families with an annual income below ₹2.5 lakh, middle and marginal farmers, and families of persons with disabilities are eligible.



- ❖ The scheme is estimated to have an annual financial outlay of ₹4,000 crore.
- ❖ It is linked to Tamil Nadu's public distribution and welfare framework and aims to reduce household cooking-fuel expenses.

Expansion of Free Bus Travel Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced the expansion of the Vettri Payanam Scheme to provide free bus travel for women on more types of buses from October 2, 2026 (Gandhi Jayanti).
- ❖ Women can travel free on express, Limited Stop Service (LSS), deluxe and mofussil buses under the expanded scheme.
- ❖ Earlier, free travel was available mainly on ordinary buses in cities and municipal areas and on hill routes up to 40 km.
- ❖ There is no income ceiling or other restriction, and transgender persons can also use the scheme.
- ❖ The expansion is expected to cost the Tamil Nadu Government about ₹6,000 crore annually.

**WOMEN TO GET FREE TRAVEL ON
ALL GOVERNMENT BUSES!**
**CHIEF MINISTER VIJAY HAS ANNOUNCED
THAT THE FREE BUS TRAVEL SCHEME FOR
WOMEN WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL
GOVERNMENT BUSES. THE SCHEME WILL
COME INTO EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 2.**

NATIONAL NEWS

National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development launched the National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to promote entrepreneurship among rural women.

- ❖ The three-month campaign will run from 21 August to 21 November 2026, focusing on women-led enterprises in farm and non-farm sectors.
- ❖ It aims to train 5 lakh Self-Help Group (SHG) women, formalise 50,000 rural enterprises, and orient 50,000 community cadres for enterprise promotion.
- ❖ The campaign also targets adding 2 lakh members to producer groups and enterprises and promoting sustainable agro-ecological practices among 20 lakh women.
- ❖ It plans to onboard 25,000 SHG members onto the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and Government e-Marketplace (GeM); enterprise-support cadres will be recognised as “Udyam Sakhis.”



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS STI Meeting 2026

- ❖ The 16th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) concluded in Chennai, ahead of the 14th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting.

- ❖ The meeting was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) coordinated the meeting, which was hosted by Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).
- ❖ Discussions covered BRICS STI Working Groups, priority areas, the BRICS STI Framework Programme, and upcoming initiatives such as the BRICS Young Scientist Forum and Young Innovator's Prize.



India-Japan Cooperation on Critical Minerals



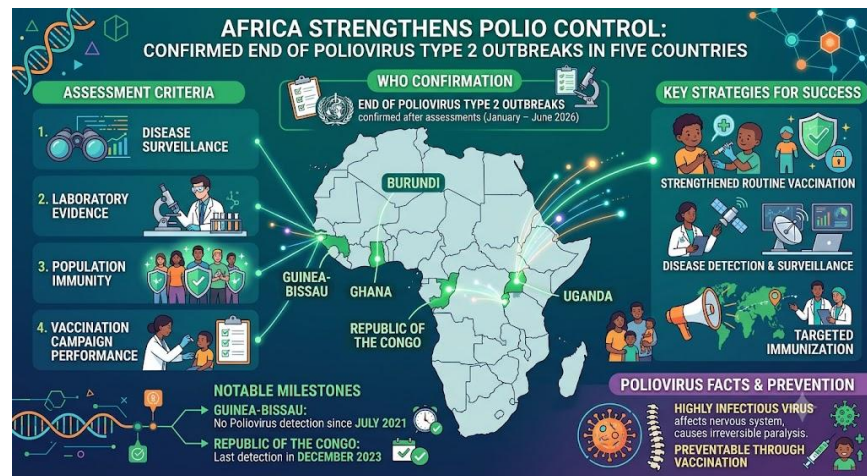
- ❖ India and Japan discussed strengthening cooperation on critical mineral supply chains and e-waste recycling in New Delhi.
- ❖ The talks focused on resource circulation to strengthen critical mineral supply chains and reduce dependence on limited primary resources.

- ❖ Both sides discussed advancing e-waste recycling, which can recover valuable materials from discarded electronic products.
- ❖ The cooperation aims to support a sustainable and circular economy while deepening India–Japan environmental cooperation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Africa on Polio Control

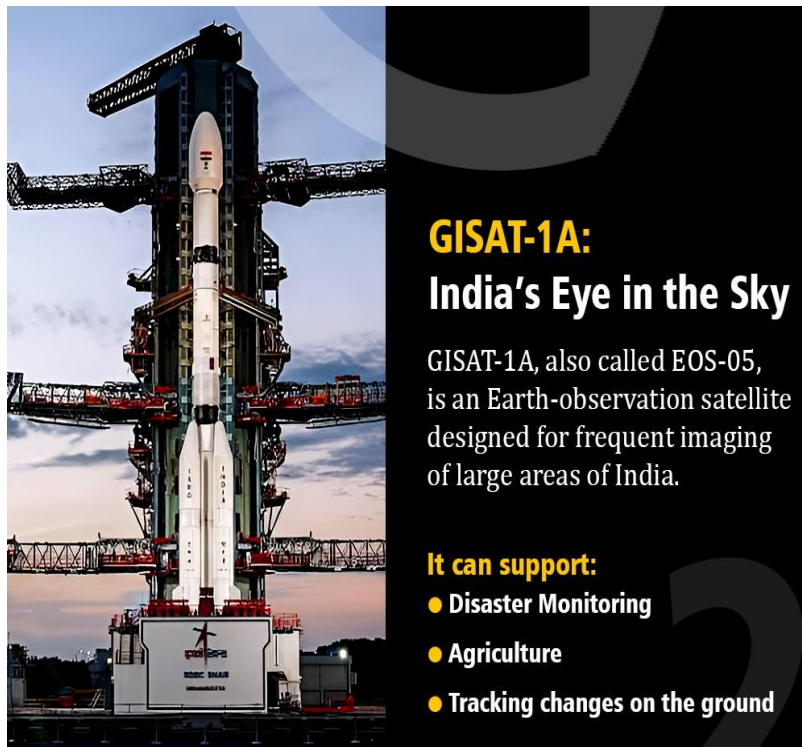
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the end of poliovirus type 2 outbreaks in Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of the Congo and Uganda after assessments conducted from January to June 2026.
- ❖ The assessments examined disease surveillance, laboratory evidence, population immunity and vaccination campaign performance.
- ❖ The five countries strengthened routine vaccination, disease detection, surveillance and targeted immunisation to stop virus transmission.
- ❖ Guinea-Bissau has reported no poliovirus detection since July 2021, while the Republic of the Congo recorded its last detection in December 2023.
- ❖ Poliovirus is a highly infectious virus that mainly affects the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis; however, polio is preventable through vaccination.



GISAT-1A Mission – ISRO

- ❖ ISRO plans to launch GISAT-1A (Geo Imaging Satellite-1A) in September 2026 after a recent pause in launches.

- ❖ GISAT-1A is the replacement for GISAT-1, also called EOS-03 (Earth Observation Satellite-03), which was lost during the GSLV-F10 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F10) mission in August 2021.
- ❖ The 2021 mission failed when the cryogenic upper stage did not ignite because of a valve leak that reduced liquid-hydrogen pressure.
- ❖ GISAT-1A will be launched using GSLV Mk-II (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II) and will provide wide-area observations of India for monitoring floods, cyclones, agriculture and forests.
- ❖ The mission will test rocket reliability, orbital deployment and imaging performance and is important before the planned NVS-03 (Navigation Satellite-03) mission for NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

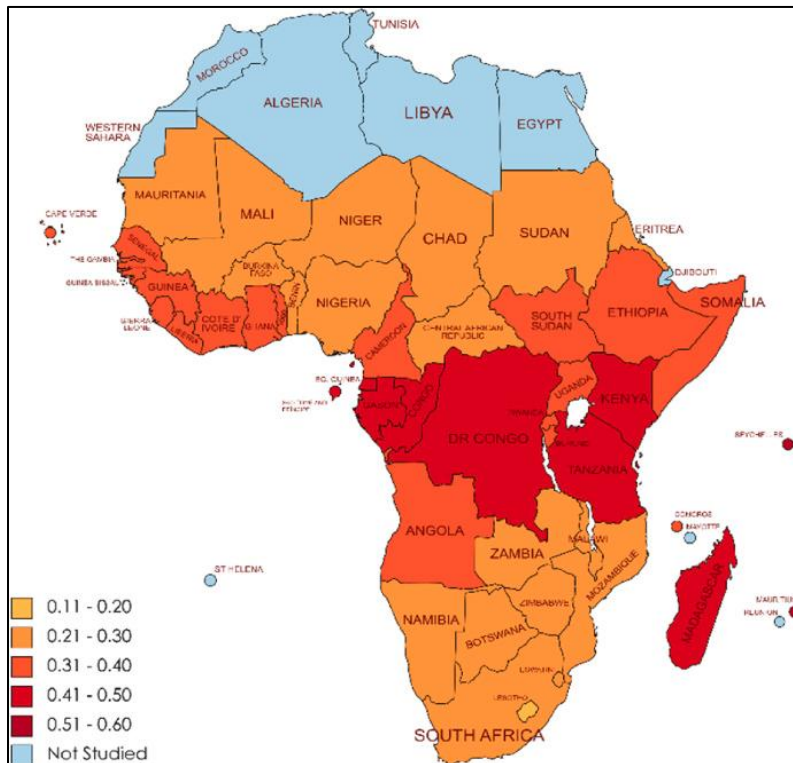


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Africa's Extreme Heat Crisis

- ❖ A study found that extreme heat is worsening health inequalities in African informal settlements.
- ❖ The systematic review examined 21 studies published between 2010 and 2024, selected from 96,608 records across 11 academic databases.

- ❖ Studies covered South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Egypt, Nigeria and Ghana; poor housing, overcrowding, limited water and weak infrastructure increased heat vulnerability.
- ❖ Heat-related effects included dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, headaches, sleep problems, respiratory illness, mental-health problems and other diseases.
- ❖ The study highlights the need for adaptation measures that address both extreme-heat exposure and underlying socioeconomic conditions in vulnerable communities.



STATE NEWS

Glyphosate ban - Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ 44 social and environmental organisations, retired forest officials and scientists have urged the Himachal Pradesh government to ban the use of glyphosate-based herbicides on forest land.
- ❖ Glyphosate is reportedly being used to clear vegetation for illegal pea and hemp cultivation; the practice has been reported in high-altitude forest areas.
- ❖ The groups said such cultivation violates the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927, and Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

- ❖ They sought scientific testing of soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity, including chemical-residue testing, in areas where herbicide use is reported.
- ❖ The Forest Department has adopted a zero-tolerance approach and has destroyed pea cultivation in five small forest patches so far.

