

August - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's 19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M won the Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary.
- ❖ The National Security Guard (NSG) launched India's first Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC) at its Training Academy in Manesar, Haryana, under the theme "She Who Dares, Leads."
- ❖ Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was sworn in as the 23rd President of Bangladesh on August 21, 2026.
- ❖ Somanath Sreedhara Panicker was appointed, and Anand Gopal Mahindra was re-appointed as part-time Non-Official Directors on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Board for four years from August 20, 2026.
- ❖ Google launched its Back-to-School 2026 campaign with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered learning tools across Google Search, Gemini and Google Classroom.
 - Eligible college students outside the United States can get 12 months of free Google AI Plus with higher Gemini limits and 400 GB storage.
- ❖ European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Sophie Adenot became the first French woman to conduct a spacewalk.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Parandur Airport Plan



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the proposed Parandur airport project would be dropped.

- ❖ The State will identify alternative sites for Chennai's second airport after studying technical feasibility and the impact on farmland and human settlements.
- ❖ A new Terminal 5 will be developed at the existing Chennai Airport, Meenambakkam, with an approach road and flyover in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- ❖ Chennai Airport currently handles about 30 million passengers a year; capacity is expected to rise to 35 million after Terminal 3 and 55 million after Terminal 5.
- ❖ The Parandur project was dropped mainly because of its potential impact on farmland and human settlements.

TN-ARIVU Curriculum

தமிழ்நாடு - அறிவுப் பாடத்திட்டம் TN-ARIVU

TN-ARIVU 2027-28 ஆம் கல்வியாண்டு முதல் மாநிலம் முழுவதும் அனைத்துப் பள்ளிகளிலும் செயல்படுத்தப்படும்.

இப்புதிய பாடத்திட்டம்,
1 முதல் 5ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை
Arivu Foundation,
6 முதல் 8ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை
Arivu Discovery,
9 முதல் 12ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை
Arivu Edge

என்ற வளர்ச்சிக் கட்டமைப்பை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டு தொடக்கநிலையில் வலுவான அடித்தளத்தையும், நடுநிலையில் ஆழமான புரிதலையும், உயர்நிலையில் வாழ்வியல், பணிவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் எதிர்காலத் திறன்களையும் மாணவர்களிடம் உருவாக்கும் வகையில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும்.

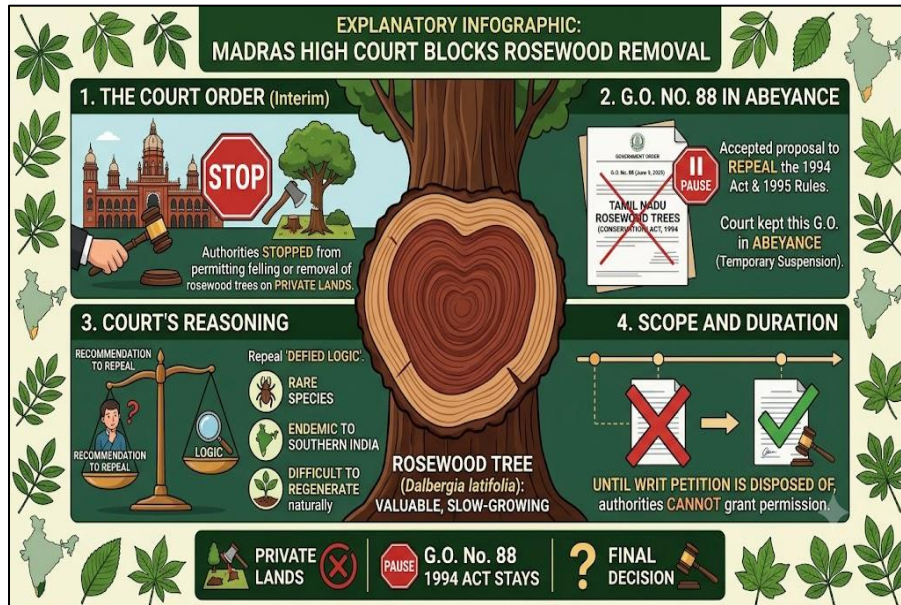


- ❖ Tamil Nadu will introduce the TN-ARIVU (Analytical Thinking, Reasoning, Innovation, Venture and Entrepreneurship, Upskilling) curriculum with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies from the 2027–28 academic year.
- ❖ The curriculum will have ARIVU Foundation for Classes I–V, ARIVU Discovery for Classes VI–VIII and ARIVU Edge for Classes IX–XII.
- ❖ The School Education Department will implement 31 initiatives with a total estimated outlay of ₹44,527 crore, focusing mainly on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and sports.
- ❖ The Mathichudar Scheme will be implemented in 2026–27 for Classes VI–XII, while the Vetripathai Scheme will provide coaching, mock tests and guidance for

national-level entrance examinations in 172 government higher secondary schools.

- ❖ Under the PLAY (Physical activity, Learning, Arts and Youth) initiative, students will get daily time for sports, arts and other co-curricular activities; 50 government schools will be developed as Sports Plus schools.

HC on Rosewood Removal

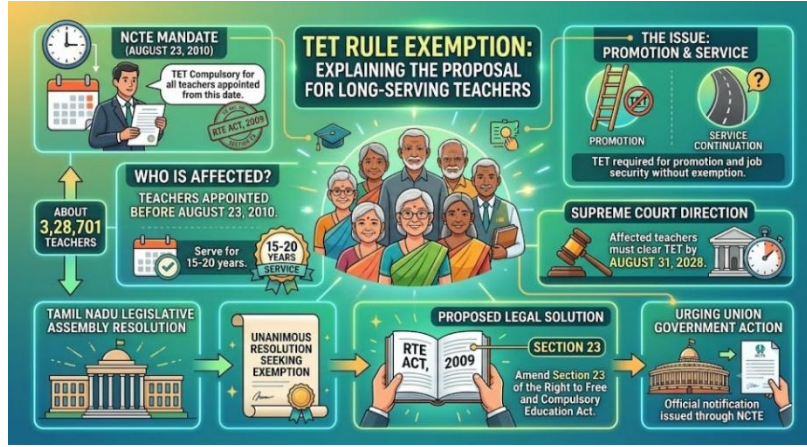


- ❖ The Madras High Court stopped authorities from allowing the felling or removal of rosewood trees on private lands until the related case is decided.
- ❖ The court kept G.O. No. 88 in abeyance, which accepted a proposal to repeal the Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994 and its 1995 Rules.
- ❖ The court said the recommendation to repeal the Act defied logic, as rosewood is a rare species native to southern India and is difficult to regenerate naturally.
- ❖ The case challenges the government order dated June 9, 2025, concerning the repeal of the 1994 Act and 1995 Rules.
- ❖ Until the writ petition is disposed of, authorities cannot grant permission to fell or remove rosewood trees from private lands.

TET Rule Exemption

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution seeking exemption from the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) for teachers appointed before August 23, 2010.

- ❖ The resolution seeks an amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
- ❖ The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had made TET compulsory for teachers from August 23, 2010.
- ❖ About 3,28,701 teachers who have served for 15–20 years could be affected by the TET requirement for promotion and continuation in service.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed these teachers to clear TET by August 31, 2028.
- ❖ The resolution urges the Union Government to take legal steps and issue a notification through NCTE.



Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is preparing to launch the 'Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam' on September 15, 2026, under which eligible newborns will receive a 1-gram gold ring.

- ❖ The scheme will cover eligible babies born in Government health institutions, and newborns born on or after June 22, 2026 will also be covered.
- ❖ Around 4.4 lakh newborns are expected to benefit annually, with an estimated annual allocation of about ₹755.83 crore.
- ❖ The ring will be 1 gram of gold and is reported to be BIS-hallmarked; the scheme covers eligible newborns irrespective of gender or birth order.
- ❖ The rings will be distributed through 107 high-load Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) centres, where secure storage facilities are being created.

NATIONAL NEWS

10 Years of UPI



- ❖ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years of digital payments in India on 25 August 2026.
- ❖ UPI was launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ Annual UPI transactions increased from 1.78 crore in Financial Year (FY) 2016-17 to over 24,162 crores in FY 2025-26, a 13,000-fold rise.
- ❖ Transaction value increased from ₹0.07 lakh crore to about ₹314 lakh crore, a rise of over 4,000 times.

- ❖ UPI is currently operational in 11 countries: United Arab Emirates, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and the Maldives.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recognised UPI as the world's largest real-time payment system by transaction volume.

India's Solar PV Manufacturing Capacity



- ❖ India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity has reached 100 GW, but it remains highly dependent on imports for key upstream inputs.
- ❖ India's module capacity rose from 2.3 GW in 2014 to 100 GW by August 2025, while cell capacity reached 25 GW and wafer capacity about 2 GW by March 2025.
- ❖ India's import dependence remains close to 100% for polysilicon, over 90% for wafers, over 60% for cells and over 40% for modules, with China as the major source.
- ❖ The government is supporting domestic manufacturing through the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) and Basic Customs Duty (BCD); the PLI scheme has awarded 48 GW of integrated PV manufacturing capacity.
- ❖ India had 106 GW of installed solar capacity by March 2025 and needs to add around 174 GW to achieve its 280 GW solar target by 2030.

- ❖ India's solar PV exports rose eightfold to \$1.2 billion in FY2025, but 97% went to the United States, showing the need to diversify export markets.

Census 2027 Changes



- ❖ Census 2027 will not record beggars and vagrants as a separate category for the first time.
- ❖ They will instead be included under “others” in the non-economic activity category.
- ❖ Only about 3.8 lakh people identified themselves as beggars or vagrants in Census 2011, compared with 6.3 lakh in 2001 and 5.4 lakh in 1991.
- ❖ Census 2027 will also add natural calamities as a reason for migration.
- ❖ New fields will collect parents' date and place of birth and religion when they are not listed in the same household or are no longer alive.
- ❖ Details such as Aadhaar, voter ID and passport numbers, where available, may also be collected.

LPG Pipeline Network Expansion

- ❖ The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) approved about 1,800 km of LPG pipelines with an estimated investment of ₹7,000 crore.
- ❖ The pipelines will cover Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa.
- ❖ State-owned GAIL (India) Limited will develop the projects.

- ❖ The projects include Cherlapally–Nagpur (556 km), Jhansi–Sitarganj (611 km), and Shikrapur–Goa & Hubli (633 km) pipelines.
- ❖ The projects are expected to increase India's LPG pipeline network from about 7,700 km to 9,500 km, a rise of about 24%.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Operation Economic Outcast



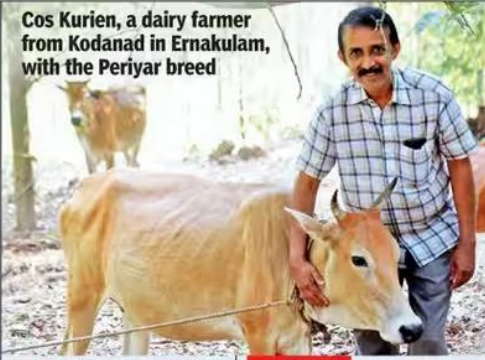
- ❖ The United States launched “Operation Economic Outcast” to economically isolate Iran by targeting its financial and commercial networks.

- ❖ The US is targeting digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping linked to Iran.
- ❖ The first phase includes sanctions against more than 60 entities, individuals and vessels.
- ❖ Secondary sanctions may penalise foreign businesses and banks that facilitate prohibited transactions with Iran.
- ❖ China is a major test of the campaign as it bought more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil in 2025.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Kerala's Second Indigenous Cattle Breed

- ❖ The ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has officially registered the Periyar cow, also known as Periyar Kullan, as an indigenous cattle breed.
- ❖ Vechur cow is one of India's smallest cattle breeds and is native to Kerala.
- ❖ It is the second indigenous cattle breed from Kerala to receive national recognition, after the Vechur cow.
- ❖ Periyar Kullan is a small-to-medium-sized dwarf cattle breed native to the Western Ghats Forest fringes and plantation areas of central Kerala.
- ❖ It is mainly found in Ernakulam and Thrissur districts and is locally known as Kuttampuzha cattle and Andukanni.

PERIYAR The breed is mostly found in upper reaches of Periyar River ➤ Height 95-100cm ➤ Milk yield 1.5-2.5 litres		Cos Kurien, a dairy farmer from Kodanad in Ernakulam, with the Periyar breed
VILWADRI Found in the Vilwadri hills at Thiruvilwamala. They are disease-free and have the ability to resist heat ➤ Height 90-95cm Yield Less than 3 litres		WAYANAD Found in areas like Muthanga, Chiramoola and Uppuchira in Wayanad ➤ Yield Less than 2.5 litres
VATAKARA Found in Valayam, Chekyad, Naripatta, Vanimel and Velam panchayats in Vatakara taluk ➤ Height 95-105cm	➤ Yield Around 3 litres CHERUVALLY Found in Cheruvally estate in Kottayam district ➤ Yield Less than 3 litres	

