



August - 29

TNPSC BITS

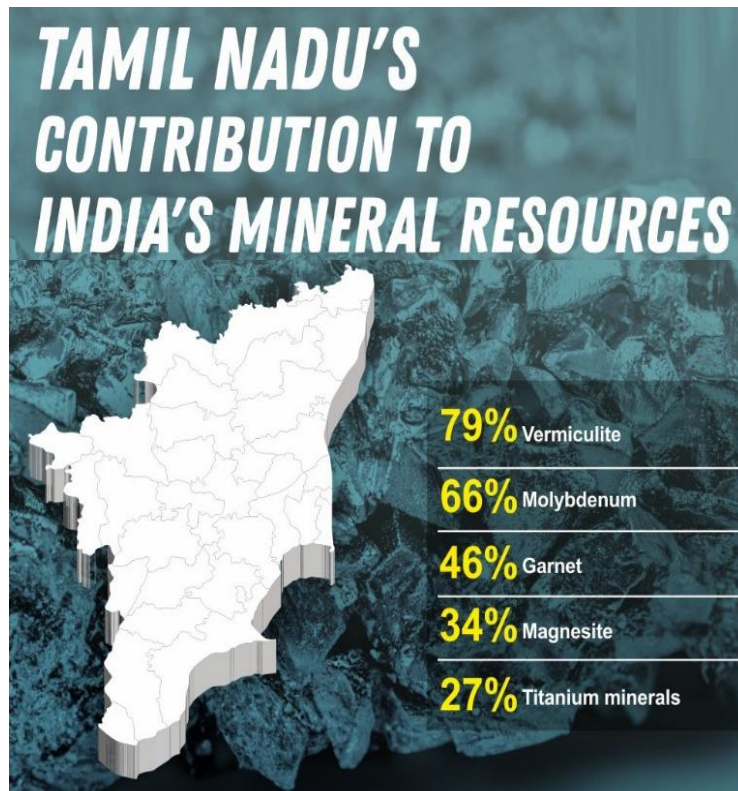
- ❖ The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) issued its first compliance certificate for a 15-metre multi-axle sleeper bus.
- ❖ The Suru Summer Festival is being held in Suru Valley, Kargil, Ladakh, promoting eco-tourism and sustainable tourism while showcasing the valley's natural and cultural heritage.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the indigenous Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) at 22,000 feet and around -15°C at the Nyoma-Mudh Drop Zone in Leh district, one of the world's highest-altitude drop zones.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the world's first Pinhole Pupilloplasty Centre at Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital in Alwarpet, Chennai.
 - Pinhole Pupilloplasty (PPP) is a microsurgical technique developed by Dr. Amar Agarwal to improve vision in selected patients with corneal scars, irregular corneas and other optical problems.
- ❖ The government restricted the manufacturing, sale and distribution of fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for children below four years.
 - These combinations may pose health risks to young children, and the government stated that safer alternatives are available.
- ❖ World Water Week 2026 is being observed from August 23–27 to highlight water cooperation, peace and security.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Water for People & Progress."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Mineral Corporation

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will establish Tamil Nadu Mineral Resources Development Corporation Limited, a new Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The new PSU will undertake mining, mineral extraction, quality enhancement, import, value addition, marketing and sale of minerals.
- ❖ An Integrated Command and Control Centre with modern digital infrastructure will monitor mineral-related activities in real time.

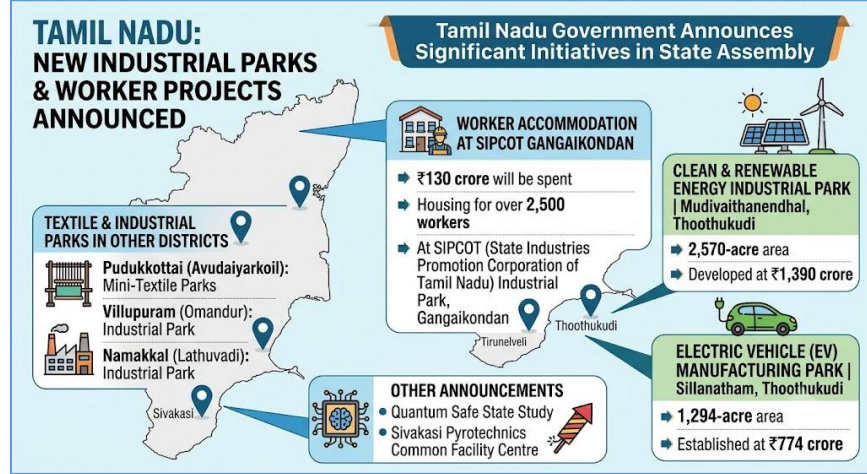
- ❖ A monitoring unit using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and satellite technology will identify areas involved in illegal mining.
- ❖ A plant fossil park will be established at Gunduperumbedu and Vellarai lakes, which are believed to be about 60 crore years old.
- ❖ The State will prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for mining tourism centres in abandoned mines and quarries under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.



Tamil Nadu Industrial Parks

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced new industrial parks and worker accommodation projects in the State Assembly.
- ❖ ₹130 crore will be spent on housing for over 2,500 workers at the SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) Industrial Park, Gangaikondan.
- ❖ A new 2,570-acre clean and renewable energy industrial park will be developed at Mudivaithanendhal, Thoothukudi, at ₹1,390 crore.
- ❖ A 1,294-acre electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing park will be established at Sillanatham, Thoothukudi, at ₹774 crore.

- ❖ Mini-textile parks will be developed at Avudaiyarkoil, Pudukkottai, while industrial parks will come up at Omandur, Villupuram, and Lathuvadi, Namakkal.
- ❖ A Quantum Safe State study and a Sivakasi Pyrotechnics Common Facility Centre were also announced.



Amendment to PSTM Quota Law

தமிழ் வழிக் கல்வி இடஒதுக்கீட்டில் வேலை பாதுகாப்பு!

20% PSTM முன்னுரிமையில் நியமிக்கப்பட்டோருக்கு சட்டத்திருத்தம் மூலம் பாதுகாப்பு

15 ஆண்டுகளில் செய்யப்பட்ட நியமனங்களுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு

ஆளுநரின் ஒப்புதலுடன் சட்டத்திருத்தம் அறிவிப்பு

தமிழ் வழியில் பயின்றவர்களுக்கு நீதி சிடைக்கும் வகையில் நடவடிக்கை

வழக்குகள் மற்றும் சட்ட சிக்கல்களை தீர்க்கும் நோக்கில் இந்த திருத்தம்

20% PSTM முன்னுரிமை

“தமிழ் வழிக் கல்விக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் அளிக்கும் தமிழக அரசின் முன்னோடியான நடவடிக்கை!”

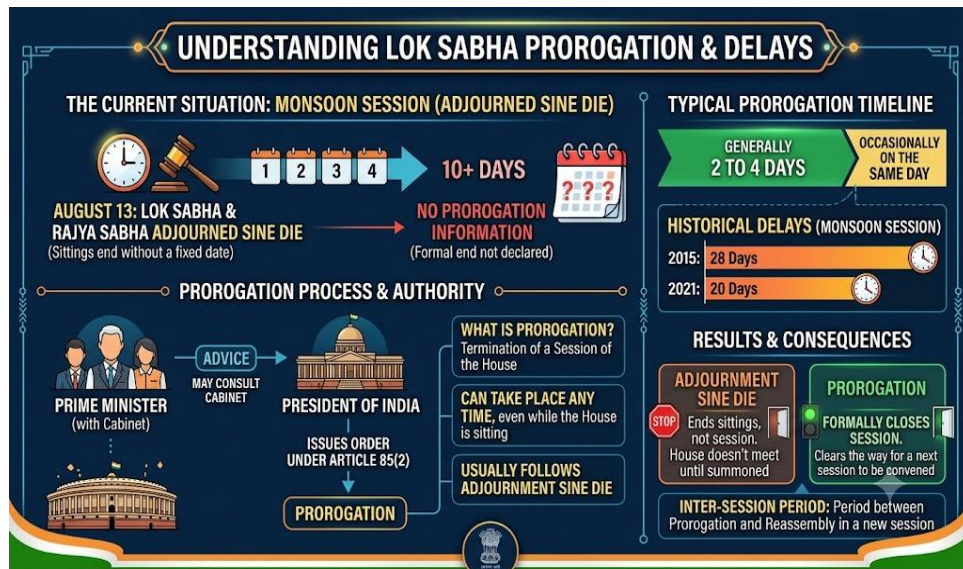
தமிழ்நாடு அரசு தலைமைச் செயலகம்

- ❖ Tamil Nadu amended the law to protect government appointments made under the Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) quota over the past 15 years.
- ❖ The amendment follows a 2025 Madras High Court ruling involving 84 serving government employees who claimed the 20% PSTM preference.

- ❖ The 2010 law reserves 20% of vacancies filled through direct recruitment for candidates who studied in Tamil medium.
- ❖ The amendment validates PSTM notifications, selections and appointments made from September 7, 2010, and protects related subsequent actions.
- ❖ In future, those who have already used the PSTM preference can use it again only for posts carrying a higher level of pay.
- ❖ Governor R V Arlekar gave assent to the Bill on August 6, 2026, after which it was notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.

NATIONAL NEWS

Delay in Lok Sabha prorogation



- ❖ Ten days have gone by since the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die in the Monsoon Session, but still there is no information on its prorogation (formal end).
- ❖ The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on August 13.
- ❖ The time gap between the adjournment of the Lok Sabha sine die and its prorogation (formal end) is generally two to four days.
- ❖ Although there are many instances when adjournment and prorogation have taken place on the very same day.
- ❖ It is true that the gap for the Monsoon session in 2015 was 28 days and in 2021 it was 20 days.
- ❖ Termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President under Article 85(2) is called prorogation.

- ❖ The President, in exercising the power to prorogue the House, acts on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The Prime Minister may consult the Cabinet before the advice is submitted to the President.
- ❖ Prorogation of the House may take place any time, even while the House is sitting.
- ❖ Usually, however, prorogation follows the adjournment of the sitting of the House sine die.
- ❖ The period between prorogation of the House and its reassembly in a new session is termed as 'inter-session period'.
- ❖ The prorogation, not adjournment, formally closes a session and clears the way for the next one to be convened.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference 2026



- ❖ Mongolia hosted the Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference under the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.
- ❖ The conference discussed sustainable pastoralism and rangeland management.
- ❖ The event was jointly organised by Mongolia's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- ❖ Participants prepared the Global Pastoralists' Declaration, Women's Pastoralists' Declaration and Youth Pastoralists' Declaration.

- ❖ The outcomes will contribute to discussions at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17, which Mongolia is hosting in August 2026.

ECONOMY NEWS

15 Year High - India's FDI

- ❖ India attracted \$30.7 billion in gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during April–June 2026, the highest level in at least 15 years.
- ❖ Net FDI reached \$7.8 billion in the April–June 2026 quarter, the highest since June 2022.
- ❖ In June 2026, gross FDI inflows stood at \$9.3 billion, while total outflows were \$7.9 billion, resulting in net FDI of \$1.3 billion.
- ❖ Singapore, the Netherlands, the United States (U.S.), and Canada together accounted for around 74% of the FDI inflows.
- ❖ The manufacturing sector received the largest share of inflows, followed by electricity generation, computer services, and communication services.
- ❖ Gross FDI in April–June 2026 was nearly 46% higher than the previous quarter and about 15% higher than the April–June 2025 quarter.

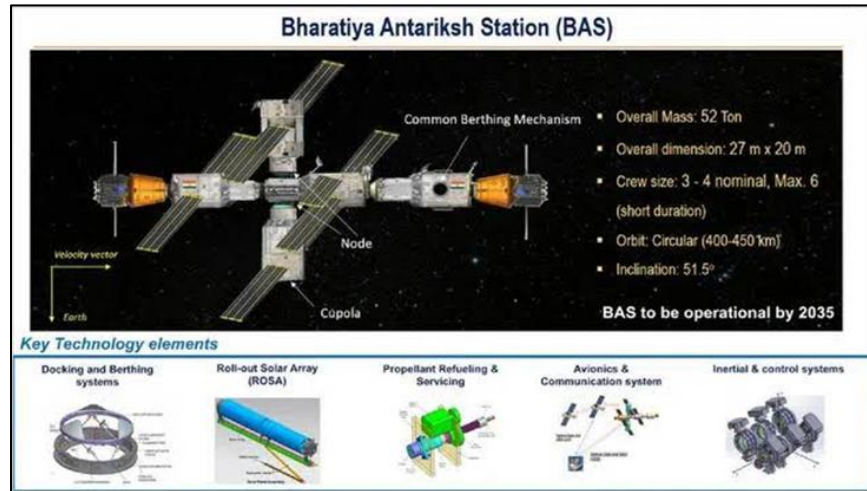


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

First module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

- ❖ India is working towards establishing its own space station by 2035.
- ❖ The first module of the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Station was already approved by ISRO.

- ❖ The first module of the station is known as BAS-01.
- ❖ It is planned as a 52-tonne space station in low-Earth orbit at an altitude of 400 to 450 kilometres.
- ❖ It is designed to support a crew of three to four astronauts for stays of three to six months.
- ❖ The proposed station will consist of five modules
- ❖ While the Gaganyaan mission is also in the pipeline.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Dehing Patkai Butterfly Diversity

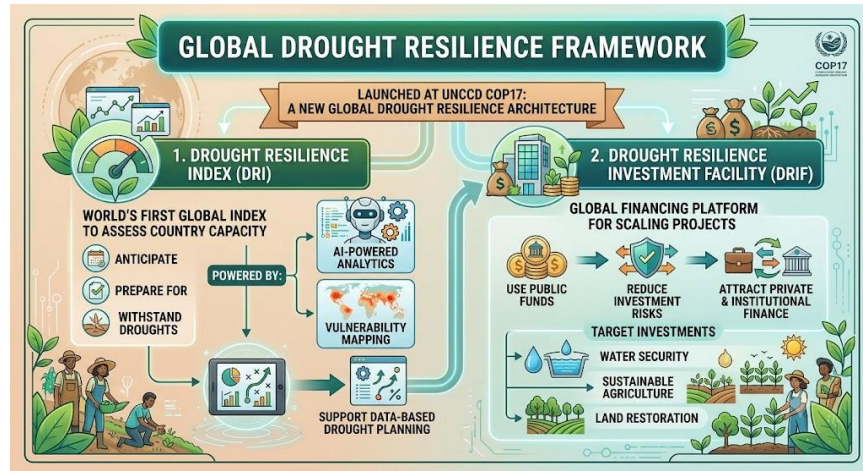


- ❖ A total of 165 butterfly species, including 37 endangered species, have been recorded in Dehing Patkai National Park, Assam.

- ❖ Dehing Patkai National Park covers 234.26 sq km across Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
- ❖ It is one of the remaining stretches of Assam Valley Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests.
- ❖ The Park forms the core of the 937 sq km Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve.

Global Drought Resilience Framework

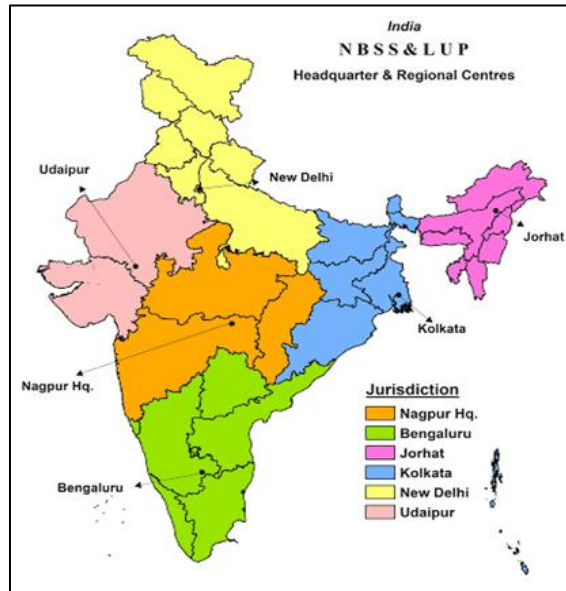
- ❖ A new global drought resilience architecture was launched at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17.
- ❖ It includes the world's first Drought Resilience Index (DRI) to assess a country's capacity to anticipate, prepare for and withstand droughts.
- ❖ The DRI uses Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered analytics and vulnerability mapping to support data-based drought planning.
- ❖ The Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) is a global financing platform for scaling drought-resilience projects.
- ❖ DRIF aims to use public funds to reduce investment risks and attract private and institutional finance for water security, sustainable agriculture and land restoration.



India's First Soil Texture Map

- ❖ The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) has developed India's first soil texture map.
- ❖ It provides digitised soil classification data at the hectare level across the country.
- ❖ It helps farmers identify best crops for specific plots, supports region-specific policies, crop planning, land-use strategies.

- ❖ Soil texture is determined by the proportion of sand, silt, and clay in soil.
- ❖ India's first soil depth map was developed and released one year before the soil texture map.
- ❖ The soil depth map was also released by NBSS&LUP.
- ❖ NBSS&LUP is a national institute under ICAR and is based in Nagpur, Maharashtra.



STATE NEWS

Gorkhaland Issue Committee



- ❖ The Centre has set up a committee to finalise a "permanent political solution" for the Gorkha issue in Darjeeling hills.

- ❖ The committee will be chaired by Pankaj Kumar Singh, former Deputy National Security Adviser and current interlocutor.
- ❖ The committee will address demands related to identity, self-rule and constitutional recognition of the Gorkha community.
- ❖ The Gorkhaland demand seeks a separate State comprising the Darjeeling hills and parts of the Terai and Dooars.
- ❖ The Centre had appointed Pankaj Kumar Singh as interlocutor in October 2025 to hold talks with Gorkha representatives.
- ❖ Darjeeling is strategically important because it is close to the Siliguri Corridor, the main land link between mainland India and the Northeast.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Inaiya Tamil Chemmal Award 2026

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced the Inaiya Tamil Chemmal Award to recognise Tamil language promotion in the digital space.
- ❖ It honours Tamil scholars and activists who promote and develop Tamil through websites, digital platforms and online research.
- ❖ The award carries the Inaiya Tamil Chemmal title and a cash prize of ₹25,000.
- ❖ It recognises efforts in digital Tamil services and Unicode promotion.
- ❖ The award extends recognition of Tamil language work into the digital era.



Nammazhvar Awards 2025-26

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister presented the Nammazhvar Awards for excellence in organic farming for 2025-26.

- ❖ The awards were given to C. Nallasivam (Namakkal), A. Subramanian (Pudukkottai), and Sadhana (Chengalpattu).
- ❖ Each award carries a cash prize of ₹2 lakh and a medal.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also presented the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak 2025 to Srisha, wife of late headmaster P.S. Gowrishankar Raja.
- ❖ The award was given posthumously to Gowrishankar Raja for his bravery in attempting to save an eight-year-old student from an agricultural farm pond.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lake Day 2026 - August 27

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated the day, and it was first observed globally in 2025.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about threats to lakes and encourage their conservation, restoration and sustainable management.
- ❖ Lakes are important for freshwater supply, biodiversity, climate regulation, livelihoods and flood management.

- ❖ Major threats include pollution, excessive water use, agricultural runoff, climate change and habitat degradation.
- ❖ Lake Baikal is the world's deepest freshwater lake, while Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake by surface area.



International Day against Nuclear Tests 2026 - August 29



- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated the day in 2009.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of nuclear tests and promote their cessation.



- ❖ The day commemorates the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in Kazakhstan on August 29, 1991.
- ❖ The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted in 1996 to end all nuclear testing but has not yet entered into force.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2010.

