



August - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian and Vietnamese Coast Guards concluded the second edition of the joint maritime exercise 'SAHYOG HOP-TAC' off the Chennai coast.
- ❖ U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order renaming Lake Ontario as "Lake America" for the U.S. geographic naming service.
 - Lake Ontario is one of the five Great Lakes and is shared by the United States and Canada.
- ❖ Norway's King Harald V died at the age of 89; he became king in 1991 and served as the country's ceremonial head of state for over three decades.
 - King Haakon VIII has inherited the Norwegian throne after the death of his father, Harald V.
- ❖ The first Kanda Express, carrying over 450 tonnes of onions from Nashik, Maharashtra, reached Delhi as part of an initiative to transport buffer-stock onions from producing regions to major consumption centres.
- ❖ The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed every year on August 30 to raise awareness about enforced disappearances and protect victims' rights.
 - 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention, with the slogan "Victims first. Actions now."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN to Get Social Justice Welfare Board

-  **TN govt on Thursday announced a ₹200-crore hostel welfare boost, raising monthly food allowance for school hostel students from ₹1,400 to ₹1,800 and college students from ₹1,500 to ₹2,000. Annual maintenance grants will also rise to ₹75,000 for school hostels and ₹1 lakh for college hostels.**
-  **Social justice minister Vanni Arasu said the Govt will set up a welfare board to provide financial aid to Dalits for education, medical care & marriages. It will also build 150 social justice hostels at ₹160 cr & establish a tribal cultural centre in the Nilgiris.**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced the establishment of a Social Justice Welfare Board for the welfare of Dalits.

- ❖ The Board will provide financial assistance for education, medical care and marriages.
- ❖ The State announced 67 measures under the Social Justice Department.
- ❖ 150 social justice hostels will be constructed at a cost of ₹160 crore.
- ❖ A Tribal Cultural Centre will be established in the Nilgiris to expand tribal research activities.

Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government will launch the Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam, providing a one-gram, 22-carat gold ring to babies born in government hospitals.
- ❖ The scheme is scheduled to be inaugurated on 15 September 2026, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu residents delivering in government institutions are eligible, and the scheme covers all new borns regardless of birth order.
- ❖ Pregnant women must be registered under Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) and have a Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) ID.
- ❖ The scheme will cover about 4,41,667 government hospital deliveries annually, with an estimated annual allocation of ₹755.83 crore.

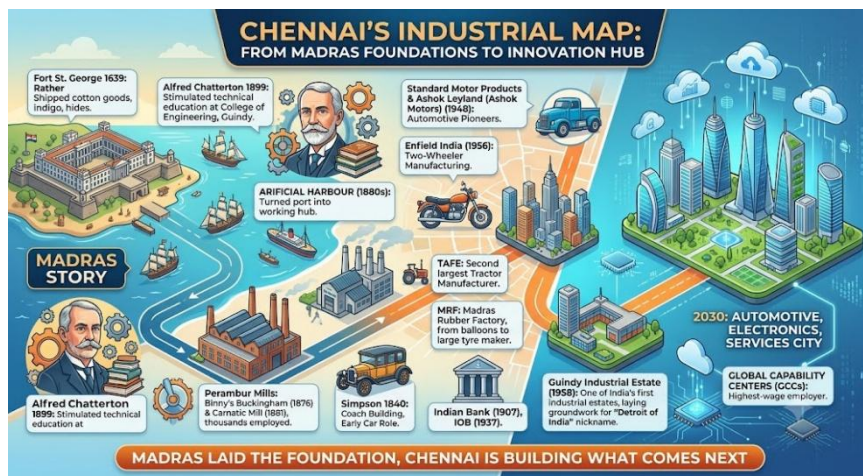


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) will procure the rings, which will be distributed through designated government hospitals under a hub-and-spoke model.
- ❖ The scheme will be applicable retrospectively from 22 June 2026, making babies born in government hospitals from that date eligible.

Chennai's Industrial Map

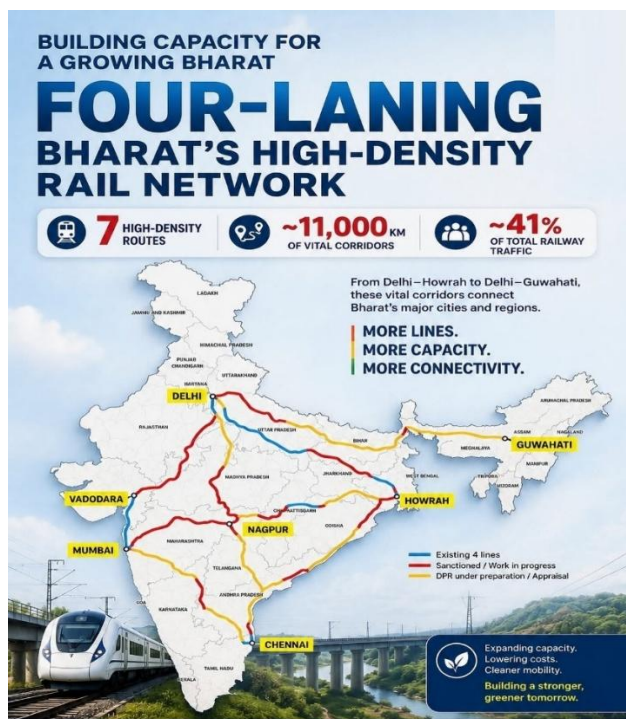
- ❖ It was Madras — a city whose business story was already taking shape several centuries ago.
- ❖ The industrial development of the Madras Presidency was a matter of serious concern and in 1899.
- ❖ Alfred Chatterton, who was then with the College of Engineering in Guindy, was appointed to stimulate industrial technical education in the region.
- ❖ From Fort St. George in 1639, Madras shipped rather than made — cotton piece goods, indigo, hides.
- ❖ The artificial harbour of the 1880s turned an open roadstead into a working port.
- ❖ Binny's Buckingham Mill in 1876 and the Carnatic Mill in 1881 employed tens of thousands at Perambur.
- ❖ Simpson began coach building in 1840.
- ❖ Long before Chennai became known as the Detroit of India, Madras was already laying the foundations for the automotive sector.
- ❖ The first car to arrive in Madras was in the early 1900s. Simpson's, the city's famed coach builders then, played a role in this.
- ❖ In 1948, Madras had become home to automotive pioneers such as Standard Motor Products of India and Ashok Leyland (Ashok Motors).
- ❖ While Enfield India began two-wheeler manufacturing in 1956.
- ❖ Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd (TAFE), headquartered in Chennai, is the second largest tractor manufacturer.
- ❖ The Madras Rubber Factory, known as MRF, began its journey in Madras as a small toy-balloon manufacturer and went on to become one of India's largest tyre makers.
- ❖ Indian Bank began its journey in Madras in 1907, followed by Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in 1937.
- ❖ In 1958, Madras opened the Guindy Industrial Estate, one of India's first industrial estates alongside Delhi's Okhla.

- ❖ In 2030 Chennai is still an automotive, electronics, and services city, and GCCs remain its highest-wage employer.
- ❖ Madras laid the foundation and Chennai is building what comes next.



NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Railways Four-Laning Plan

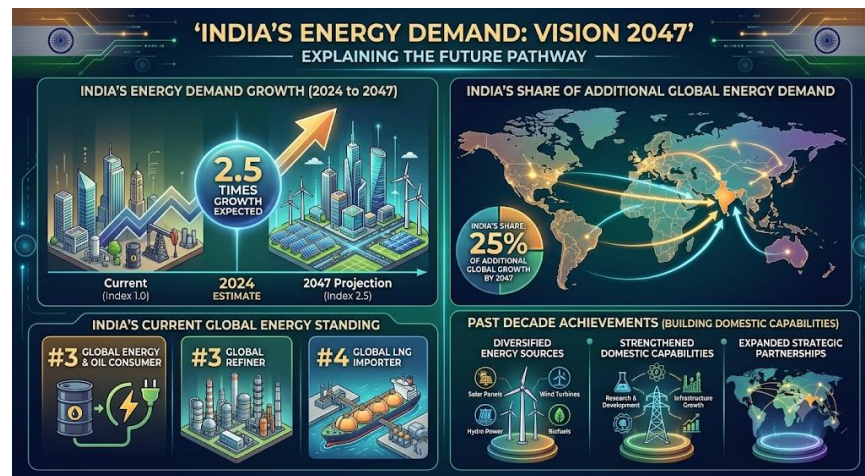


- ❖ Indian Railways plans to four-lane around 11,000 km of its High-Density Network (HDN) to increase train capacity and reduce congestion.

- ❖ The seven high-density routes together carry about 41% of total railway traffic, while accounting for only around 16% of the railway network.
- ❖ The seven routes are Delhi–Howrah, Howrah–Chennai, Chennai–Mumbai, Mumbai–Delhi, Delhi–Chennai, Mumbai–Howrah, and Delhi–Guwahati.
- ❖ Kavach 4.0, India’s indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, has been commissioned over 2,490 route km on the Delhi–Mumbai and Delhi–Howrah corridors.
- ❖ Kavach 4.0 includes improved train-location accuracy, better signal information in large railway yards and integration with existing Electronic Interlocking Systems.

India’s Energy Demand by 2047

- ❖ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India’s energy demand is expected to grow 2.5 times by 2047.
- ❖ India is expected to account for around 25% of the additional global energy demand by 2047.
- ❖ India is currently the world’s third-largest consumer of energy and oil.
- ❖ India is also the third-largest refiner and the fourth-largest importer of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).
- ❖ Over the past decade, India has diversified energy sources, strengthened domestic capabilities and expanded strategic energy partnerships.



Fastest Growing Container Port - Jawaharlal Nehru Port

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru Port ranked 21st globally and became the fastest-growing container port in the first half of 2026, according to Alphaliner.

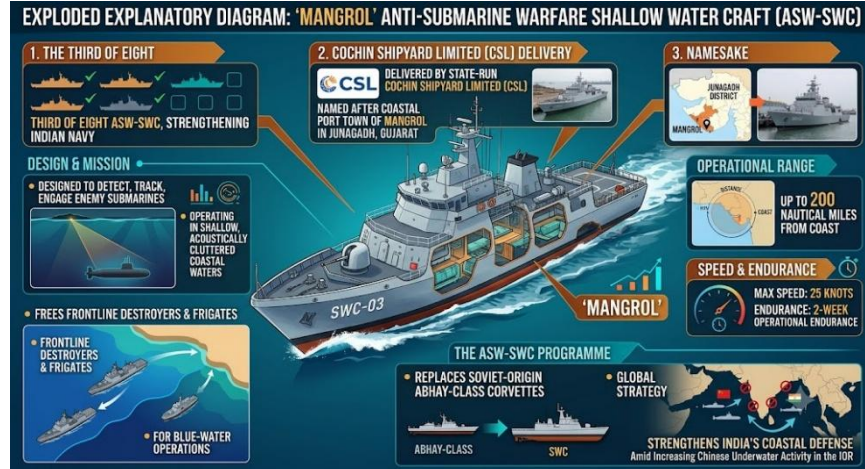
- ❖ It handled 4.40 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) from January to June 2026, compared with 3.87 million TEUs in the same period of 2025, recording 13.6% growth.
- ❖ Its global ranking improved by seven places, from 28th to 21st, bringing it close to Colombo Port, which ranked 20th.
- ❖ Mundra Port in Gujarat was the only other Indian port in the top 30, ranking 26th with around 2.4% growth.
- ❖ The growth at JN Port was supported by increased Indian export-import (EXIM) demand, higher terminal capacity and diversion of some West Asia-bound cargo to Indian ports.



Mangrol - Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

- ❖ It is the Third of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC)
- ❖ State-run Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) delivered this
- ❖ It was named after the coastal port town of Mangrol in Junagadh district, Gujarat
- ❖ It was designed to detect, track, and engage enemy submarines operating in shallow, acoustically cluttered coastal waters
- ❖ It will be freeing frontline destroyers and frigates for blue-water operations.
- ❖ Operational Range will be Up to 200 nautical miles from the coast
- ❖ Speed & Endurance will be Max speed of 25 knots; 2-week operational endurance

- ❖ ASW-SWC Programme is designed to replace the four Soviet-origin Abhay-class corvettes.
- ❖ It strengthens India's coastal defense capabilities amid increasing Chinese underwater activity in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-US Javelin Deal



- ❖ India signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with the United States on to procure the Javelin anti-tank guided missile system through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process.
- ❖ The FGM-148 Javelin is a man-portable, fire-and-forget, medium-range anti-tank guided missile used against armoured vehicles and fortified positions.
- ❖ The Javelin is manufactured by the Javelin Joint Venture, involving RTX and Lockheed Martin.

- ❖ Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed an agreement with the Javelin Joint Venture in February 2025 to explore possible co-production in India.
- ❖ The US had approved the potential sale in November 2025, involving 100 Javelin missiles and 216 Excalibur artillery projectiles under separate cases.

U.S. on Palestine Action

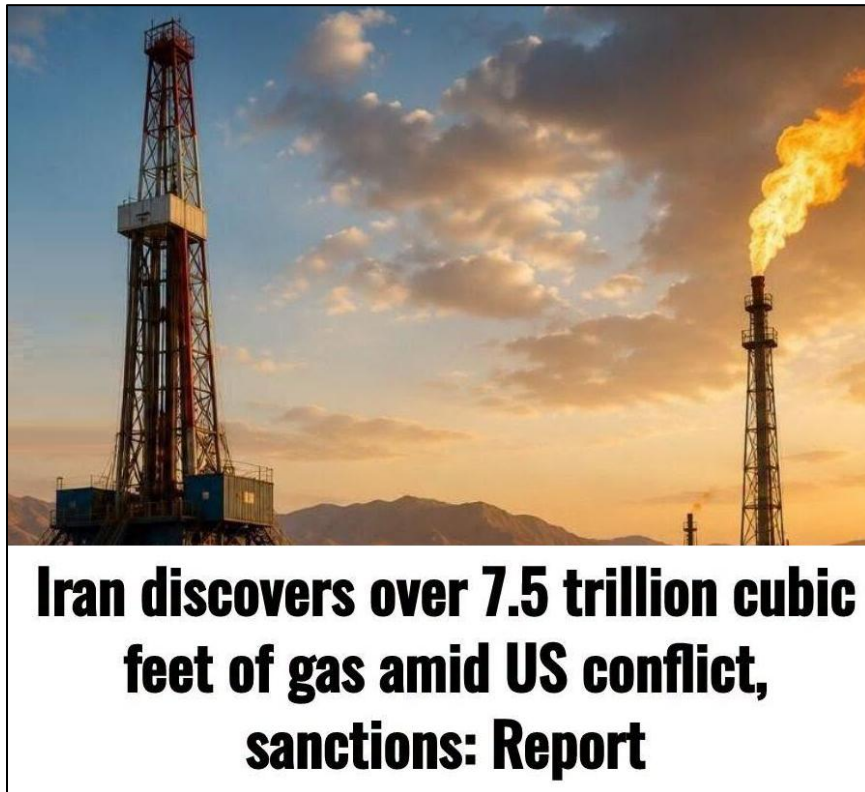
- ❖ The United States designated the U.K.-based Palestine Action as a foreign terrorist organisation.
- ❖ Palestine Action, established in 2020, had already been banned by the United Kingdom and is challenging the ban.
- ❖ The U.S. also designated Autistici/Inventati (A/I Collective) of Italy and Masar Badil, a pro-Palestinian group, as terrorist organisations.
- ❖ The U.S. State Department described all three as violent far-left terrorist groups.
- ❖ Israel welcomed the designations, while Palestine Action's co-founder Huda Ammori criticised the measures.



7.5 trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserve in Iran

- ❖ New natural gas field in Fars gas field in Iran with 7.5 trillion cubic feet of reserves was found.
- ❖ With 5.7 trillion cubic feet seen was recoverable.

- ❖ This distinction matters because not every molecule of gas found underground can necessarily be commercially extracted.
- ❖ The recoverable portion depends majorly on the geology of the field, the technology available and the economics of developing it.
- ❖ 5.7 trillion cubic feet recoverable figure is more useful than the headline 7.5 trillion cubic feet figure when thinking about its eventual economic impact.
- ❖ Newly discovered gas has also been described as "sweet gas", which generally contains relatively low levels of hydrogen sulphide.
- ❖ As a result, its processing is made easier than for gas with higher levels of impurities.
- ❖ Iran holds the world's second-largest proven natural gas reserves after Russia.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's Forex Reserve Growth

- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$12.4 billion to a record \$729.3 billion during the week ended August 21, 2026.
- ❖ The rise was mainly supported by Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), the largest component of India's reserves, which increased by \$9.4 billion to \$591.3 billion.

- ❖ Gold reserves increased by \$2.8 billion to \$114.2 billion during the week.
- ❖ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by \$112 million to \$18.8 billion.
- ❖ India's reserve position with the IMF increased by \$26 million to about \$4.9 billion.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

FWD Supreme Lite



- ❖ Indian defence startup Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) has unveiled FWD Supreme Lite, touted as India's first AI-piloted fighter aircraft programme.
- ❖ It is a 250-kg-class flight technology demonstrator designed to test technologies for future autonomous combat aircraft.

- ❖ The demonstrator is undergoing airframe development, system integration and ground testing, with its first flight targeted for Q3 2026.
- ❖ The programme is being developed by FWDA, a Bengaluru-based Indian defence startup, and is designed and developed in India.
- ❖ The wider FWD Supreme family is based on the company's "Mobbing Doctrine", focusing on AI-enabled autonomous combat operations.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Madras Crocodile Bank – 50th year

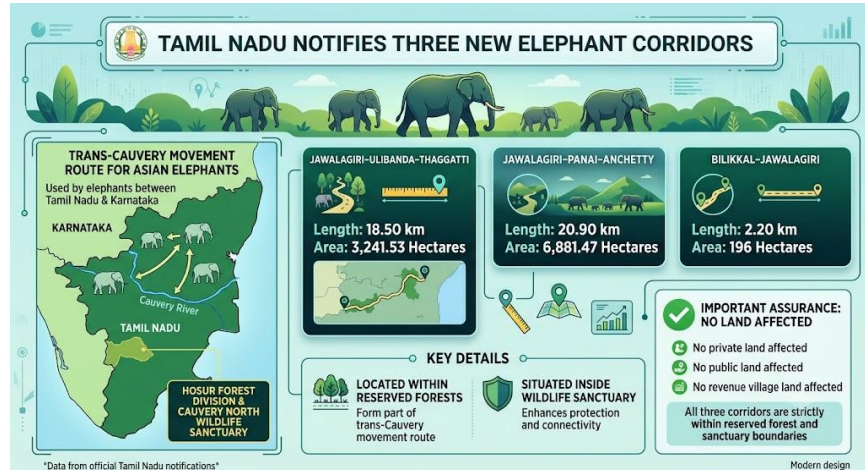
- ❖ The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) in Chennai has completed 50 years of reptile conservation.
- ❖ It was established by Romulus 'Rom' Whitaker and Zai Whitaker to conserve crocodiles and other reptiles.
- ❖ The 8.5-acre centre houses over 400 crocodiles, including 47 gharials, along with turtles, snakes and lizards.
- ❖ MCBT conducts captive breeding, research, reptile education and snake-bite mitigation programmes.
- ❖ It also supports conservation initiatives such as the Andaman and Nicobar Environmental Team (ANET) and the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society.



Three Elephant Corridors in TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu notified three new elephant corridors in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary, Hosur Forest Division.
- ❖ The corridors form part of the trans-Cauvery movement route used by Asian elephants between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

- ❖ Jawalagiri-Ulibanda-Thaggatti: 18.50 km long; covers 3,241.53 hectares.
- ❖ Jawalagiri-Panai-Anchetty: 20.90 km long; covers 6,881.47 hectares.
- ❖ Bilikkal-Jawalagiri: 2.20 km long; covers 196 hectares.
- ❖ All three corridors are within reserved forest and sanctuary boundaries, with no private, public or revenue village land affected.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Whale Shark Day 2026 - August 30



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about whale shark conservation.
- ❖ The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) launched the 'Save the Whale Shark Campaign' along coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The whale shark (Rhincodon typus) is the largest fish on Earth and is a keystone species in marine ecosystems.
- ❖ In India, whale sharks occur along the entire coast, with the largest aggregation found along the Gujarat coast.



- ❖ It is listed as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

