



August - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ R. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) after defeating Fabiano Caruana (USA) 15–13 in the final at St. Louis, USA.
- ❖ India's first 100% indigenous AK-203 'Sher' assault rifle was successfully manufactured and test-fired at the Korwa Ordnance Facility in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The rifle is manufactured by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), an India-Russia joint venture established in 2019.
- ❖ IIT Madras successfully tested India's first indigenous 5 kN air-breathing Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE) with an aerospoke nozzle, achieving stable 5 kN thrust through sustained pressure-gain combustion.
 - CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) unveiled three indigenous micro and small gas turbine engines in New Delhi — NJ-05 (5 kg thrust), NJ-50 (50 kg thrust), and NJ-100 (100 kg thrust).
- ❖ Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched 'Gnani Artha', a sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) stack developed by GNANI AI, in New Delhi.
 - It comprises Evon 3.3, a Large Language Model (LLM), and Plexus, a platform connecting AI intelligence with real-world work and institutions.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is set to become India's third international subsea cable gateway after Mumbai and Chennai, supported by new data centre investments.
- ❖ World Sanskrit Day is observed every year on Shravana Purnima; in 2026, it was observed on August 28 to promote and preserve the Sanskrit language and its cultural heritage.
 - Sanskrit Day was officially observed in India from 1969, following notifications issued by the Union Ministry of Education.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Shelter to affected couples

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to set up a 'safe house' in every district so as to provide security to individuals and families vulnerable to and affected by 'honour' killings or caste killings and related violence.
- ❖ Minister for Social Justice Vanni Arasu said the decision was in line with the judgment of the Supreme Court in the Shakti Vahini vs. Union of India case and followed representations from survivors of 'honour' killings and activists.

- ❖ From the perspective of women, this shelter home was an absolute lifeline.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had established special cells with a 24-hour helpline to receive complaints of harassment or threats to couples in inter-caste marriages as early as 2018.

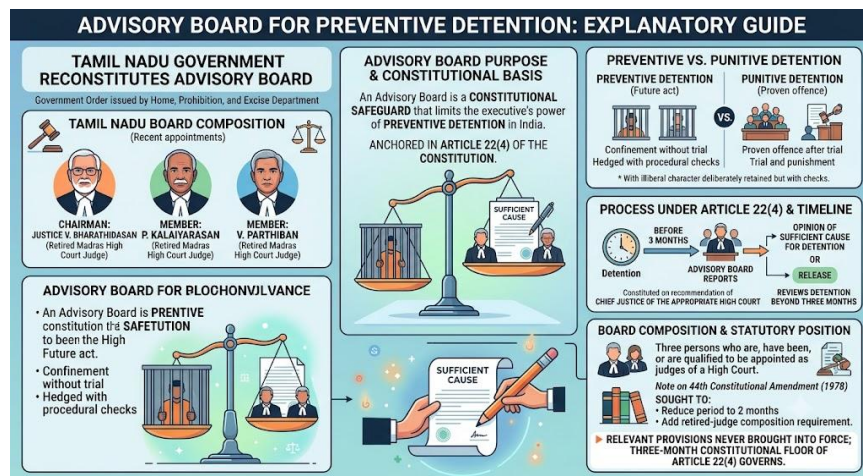


Advisory Board for Preventive Detention

- ❖ T.N. government reconstitutes Advisory Board for Preventive Detention.
- ❖ A Government Order to this effect was issued by the Home, Prohibition, and Excise Department.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has recently reconstituted the Advisory Board of the Tamil Nadu Preventive Detention Act, 1982, and appointed retired Madras High Court judge Justice V. Bharathidasan as its Chairman.
- ❖ According to the order, P. Kalaiyaran and V. Parthiban, both retired judges of the Madras High Court, were appointed as members.
- ❖ An Advisory Board is a constitutional body of judges that reviews whether sufficient cause exists to detain a person beyond three months under a preventive detention law.
- ❖ An Advisory Board is the constitutional safeguard that limits the executive's power of preventive detention in India, anchored in Article 22(4) of the Constitution.
- ❖ Preventive detention—confinement without trial to forestall a future apprehended act, as distinct from punitive detention for a proven offence—was deliberately retained by the framers despite its illiberal character, but hedged with procedural checks.
- ❖ Article 22(4) provides that no law authorizing preventive detention may permit detention beyond three months unless an Advisory Board, constituted in

accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Justice of the appropriate High Court, has reported before the expiry of that period that there is in its opinion sufficient cause for such detention.

- ❖ The composition of the Advisory Board is itself a safeguard.
- ❖ As amended after the 44th Constitutional Amendment debate, the prevailing statutory position requires the Board to consist of three persons who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as, judges of a High Court.
- ❖ The Chairman must be a sitting judge of a High Court.
- ❖ The Board is constituted on the recommendation of the appropriate Chief Justice, insulating it from direct executive selection.
- ❖ The 44th Amendment of 1978 sought to reduce the period of detention permissible without Board reference from three months to two and to add a retired-judge composition requirement, but the relevant provisions were never brought into force, so the three-month constitutional floor of Article 22(4) continues to govern.



NATIONAL NEWS

Seven Drug Standards

- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) launched seven nitrosamine impurity reference standards for the first time.
- ❖ The standards will help laboratories accurately detect and measure nitrosamine impurities in medicines.
- ❖ Nitrosamines are harmful compounds that may form during the manufacture, storage or packaging of medicines.

- ❖ These standards will improve pharmaceutical testing, quality assurance and regulatory compliance.
- ❖ IPC also held its first interactive meeting with the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata, on drug quality and pharmacopoeial standards.



India's First Superfine ATH Plant

HINDALCO COMMISSIONS INDIA'S FIRST SUPERFINE PPT ATH PLANT IN BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA

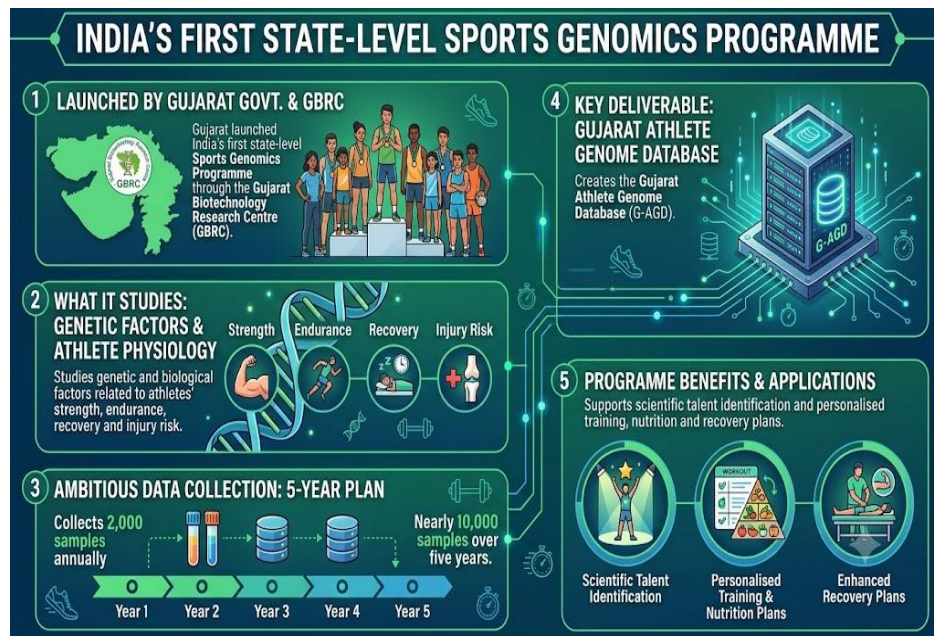
A landmark step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in critical fire-safety and specialty alumina solutions.

- ❖ Hindalco Industries commissioned India's first Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH) plant in Belagavi, Karnataka.
- ❖ The plant has an initial annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes, which can be expanded to 60,000 tonnes.
- ❖ PPT ATH is a halogen-free flame-retardant material used in cables, insulators, paints and thermal insulation.
- ❖ It reduces the spread of flames and smoke without releasing harmful halogen acid gases.

- ❖ The facility uses technology developed in-house and operates entirely on biomass, solar and wind energy.
- ❖ Domestic production will meet most of India's demand from the wire and cable industry and reduce imports.

India's First Sports Genomics Programme

- ❖ Gujarat launched India's first state-level Sports Genomics Programme through the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC).
- ❖ It will study genetic and biological factors related to athletes' strength, endurance, recovery and injury risk.
- ❖ Gujarat plans to collect 2,000 samples annually and nearly 10,000 over five years.
- ❖ The programme will create the Gujarat Athlete Genome Database (G-AGD).
- ❖ It will support scientific talent identification and personalised training, nutrition and recovery plans.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Terror List 2026

- ❖ The United States has removed Syria from its State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list, following a 45-day congressional review.

- ❖ Syria had been on the list since 1979 over allegations of supporting armed groups opposed to Israel.
- ❖ The decision followed assurances from Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa that Syria would not support international terrorism in the future.
- ❖ The removal is expected to ease Syria's access to the US-led international financial system, trade and investment and support its reconstruction.
- ❖ With Syria's removal, Cuba, Iran and North Korea are the only countries remaining on the US SSOT list.
- ❖ Iran has been listed since 1984, Cuba since 1982 (restored in 2021), and North Korea since 2017 (restored after its earlier removal in 2008).



India-China Boundary Consensus

- ❖ India and China reached an eight-point consensus during the 25th Special Representatives' talks on the boundary question in Beijing.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to maintain peace and reduce tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto boundary between them.
- ❖ Two additional military meeting points and two new military hotlines will be established in the Eastern and Middle Sectors.
- ❖ The Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) will continue discussions on border management.
- ❖ The Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation will work on issues related to the boundary.

- ❖ The next Expert-Level Mechanism meeting on trans-border rivers and hydrological data sharing will be held in September 2026.

INDIA-CHINA'S 8-POINT BORDER CONSENSUS

1. Maintain Peace Along The Border

India and China reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border and following guidance from their leaders. They said a stable border is important for the healthy development of wider bilateral relations.

2. Work Towards a Boundary Settlement

Both sides agreed to continue negotiations for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the long-running boundary tension, based on the principles agreed in 2005 and subsequent talks.

US-Venezuela Oil Deal



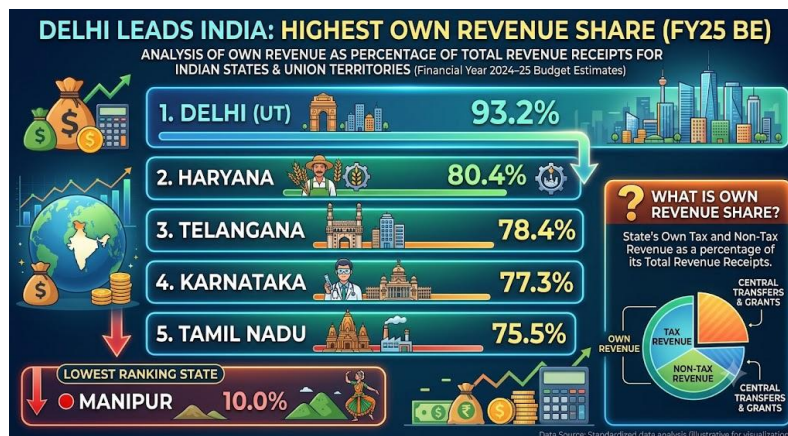
- ❖ The United States announced an agreement for majority control over more than 65 billion barrels of Venezuelan oil reserves.

- ❖ The reported deal covers 17 strategic oilfields and may grant the US access to the reserves for 100 years.
- ❖ The reserves represent about one-fifth of Venezuela's estimated 303 billion barrels of proven oil reserves.
- ❖ Venezuela estimated that the deal would attract \$100 billion in investment and generate \$209 billion in taxes.
- ❖ The deal was announced amid rising global oil prices and declining US oil reserves.

ECONOMY NEWS

Fiscal Revenue List 2024-25

- ❖ Delhi recorded the highest own revenue share among states and Union Territories at 93.2% in the Financial Year 2024-25 Budget Estimates (FY25 BE).
- ❖ Haryana ranked second with 80.4%, followed by Telangana at 78.4%.
- ❖ Karnataka ranked fourth with 77.3%, while Tamil Nadu ranked fifth with 75.5%.
- ❖ Manipur recorded the lowest own revenue share at 10%.
- ❖ Own revenue includes a state's tax and non-tax revenue as a share of its total revenue receipts.

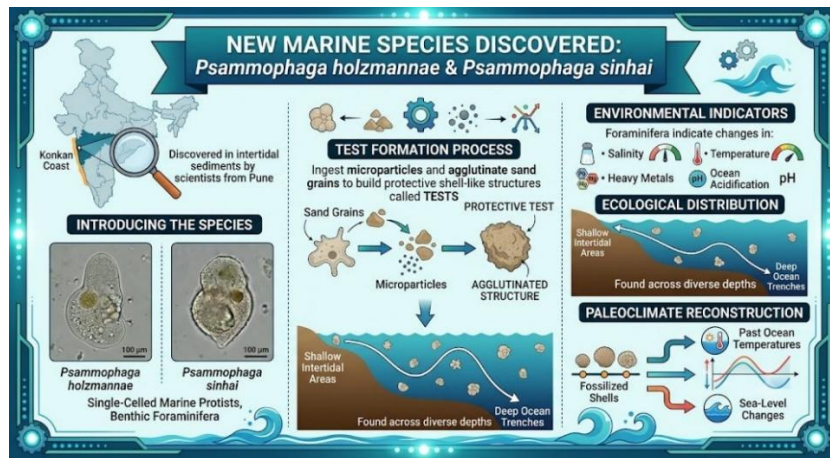


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

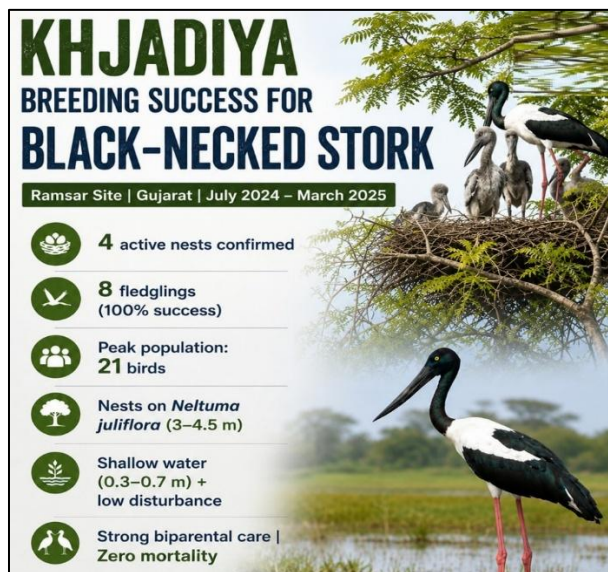
New Marine Species 2026

- ❖ Scientists from Pune discovered two new species of microscopic marine organisms, *Psammophaga holzmannae* and *Psammophaga sinhai*, in the intertidal sediments along Maharashtra's Konkan coast.

- ❖ They are single-celled marine protists belonging to the genus *Psammophaga*, a group of benthic foraminifera.
- ❖ They ingest microparticles and agglutinate sand grains to build protective shell-like structures called tests.
- ❖ Foraminifera are found from shallow intertidal areas to deep ocean trenches and can indicate changes in salinity, temperature, heavy metals and ocean acidification.
- ❖ Their fossilised shells are also used to reconstruct past ocean temperatures and sea-level changes.



Gujarat Wetland - Black-Necked Stork Breeding

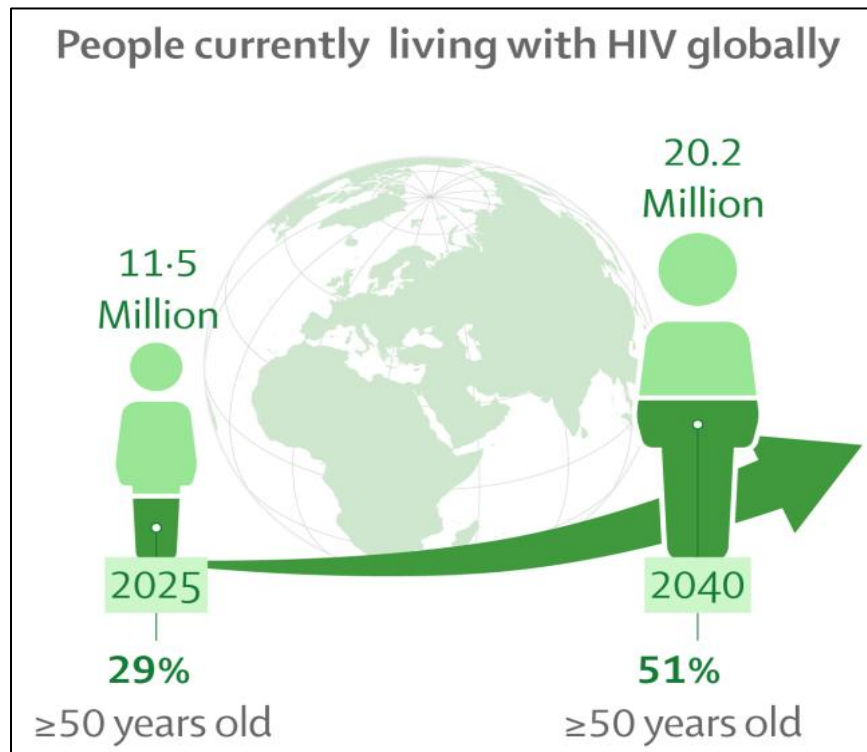


- ❖ Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat was identified as a major breeding site for the Black-necked Stork.

- ❖ The Black-necked Stork is classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Researchers recorded a peak population of 21–23 storks during surveys conducted from July 2024 to March 2025.
- ❖ Four active nests produced eight young birds during the October–December breeding season.
- ❖ All the nests were built on Neltuma juliflora, an invasive tree locally known as gando baval.
- ❖ Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is a Ramsar wetland site in Jamnagar district, Gujarat.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global HIV Population



- ❖ The Lancet HIV Commission on Ageing released its 2026 report on the growing number of older people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- ❖ In 2025, about 11.5 million HIV-positive people were aged 50 years or older.
- ❖ This number is projected to reach 20.2 million by 2040, representing 51% of all people living with HIV.
- ❖ About 96% of these older adults are expected to live in low- and middle-income countries.

- ❖ Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) has helped people with HIV live longer.
- ❖ The report called for HIV care to be combined with services for age-related illnesses and mental health.

Global Gas Report 2026



- ❖ Global natural gas demand reached a record 4,202 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2025, according to the Global Gas Report 2026.
- ❖ The report was released by the International Gas Union (IGU), Snam and Rystad Energy.
- ❖ Global gas demand is projected to fall by 7 bcm in 2026, mainly due to supply disruptions and higher prices linked to the Strait of Hormuz crisis.
- ❖ Global gas supply also reached a record 4,147 bcm in 2025, while liquefied natural gas (LNG) net imports reached 580 bcm.
- ❖ Asia and Africa were most affected by higher LNG prices, while North American gas demand is expected to increase by 10 bcm in 2026.
- ❖ In India, peak electricity demand reached a record 271 gigawatts (GW) in May 2026, increasing the use of natural gas-based power plants.

STATE NEWS

Australian Merino sheep - Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh introduced Australian Merino sheep to improve wool quality and increase the state's wool production.
- ❖ The ₹6-crore programme began in 2021 under the National Livelihood Mission, with 240 Merino sheep imported from Australia.

- ❖ Merino and indigenous Gaddi sheep were crossbred through artificial insemination, producing 800 healthy lambs.
- ❖ The programme aims to reduce wool thickness from about 27 microns to 21–22 microns for producing finer, apparel-grade wool.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh plans to increase its annual wool production from about 1,500 tonnes to 3,000 tonnes by 2027.

