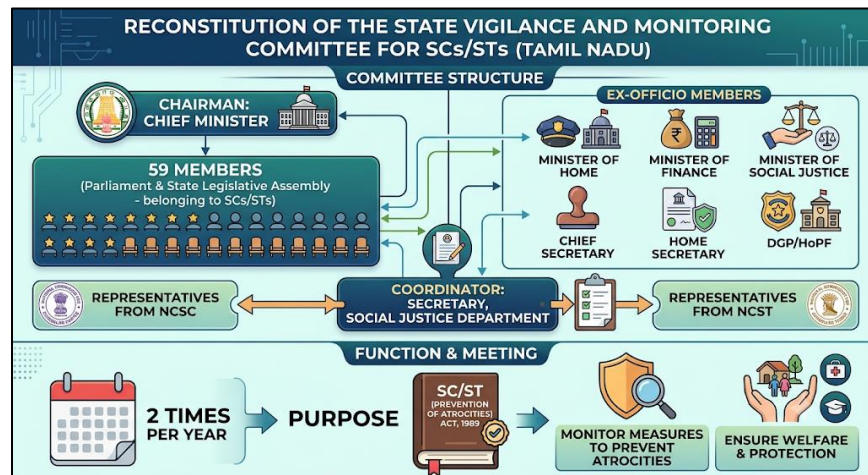


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## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Reconstitution of the SC/ST Committee

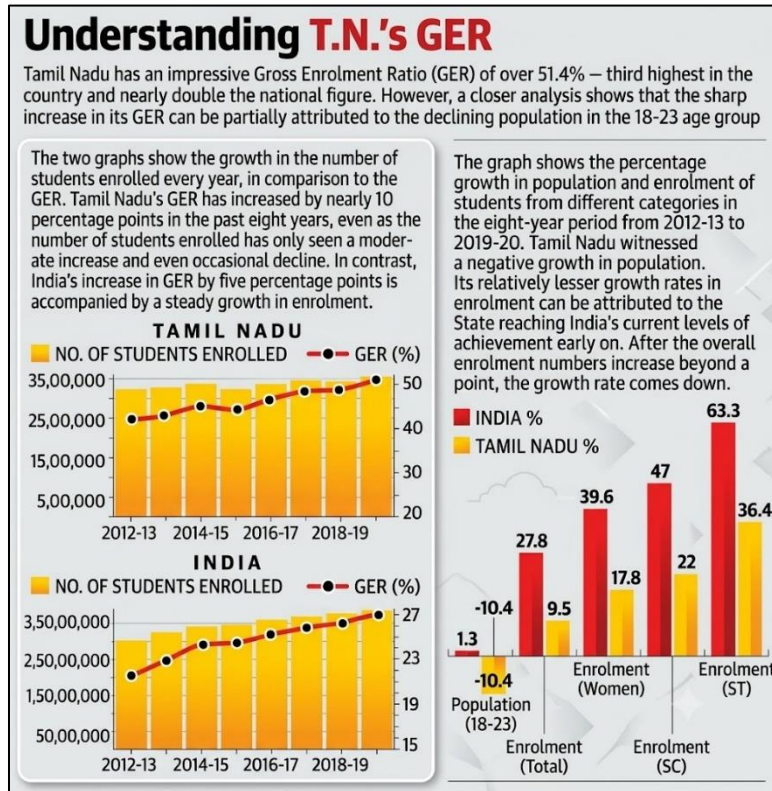
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has reconstituted the State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❖ The Chief Minister serves as the Chairman of the committee, with 59 members from Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly belonging to SCs/STs.
- ❖ The committee also includes the Ministers of Home, Finance, and Social Justice, the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Director General of Police (DGP)/Head of Police Force (HoPF), and representatives from the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
- ❖ The Secretary, Social Justice Department, serves as the coordinator of the committee.
- ❖ The committee meets twice a year to review the implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ It monitors measures taken to prevent atrocities and ensure the welfare and protection of SC/ST communities.



### Tamil Nadu in Higher Education GER

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023-24.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's GER increased to 52.3%, crossing 50% for the first time.

- ❖ Around 35.8 lakh students aged 18–23 years are enrolled in higher education out of 68.4 lakh youth in the State.
- ❖ The State has 2,983 colleges, an increase of 70 colleges compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Girls recorded a GER of 53.1%, while boys recorded 51.6% in higher education.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict

- ❖ Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict at the Wildlife Institute of India–Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON) in Coimbatore and launched the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal.
- ❖ The Centre of Excellence was announced by the Prime Minister during the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).
- ❖ The Centre will serve as a national hub for research, innovation, policy support, capacity building, and scientific management of human-wildlife conflict.
- ❖ The National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal will improve data management, knowledge sharing, and decision-making for conflict mitigation across India.

- ❖ The first edition of "Current Status of Human-Wildlife Conflict in India: An Overview" was also released, highlighting the country's conflict trends and emerging challenges.



### 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group Meeting



- ❖ The 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group (TWG) Meeting began in Nagpur, Maharashtra, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen cooperation among member countries on sustainable and future-ready transport systems.
- ❖ The meeting discusses key areas such as sustainable transport infrastructure, clean mobility, logistics resilience, and multimodal connectivity to address emerging global transport challenges.
- ❖ India's BRICS Chairship theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

- ❖ The six flagship initiatives under India's Chairship include sustainable infrastructure, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), transport decarbonisation, urban mobility, resilient logistics, and railway research cooperation.
- ❖ The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- ❖ BRICS nations together account for 49.5% of the world's population, 40% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and 26% of global trade, highlighting their role in global transport cooperation.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### ACITI Technology Partnership



- ❖ India, Australia, and Canada launched the Australia–Canada–India Technology and Innovation Partnership (ACITI) to strengthen cooperation in technology and innovation.
- ❖ The trilateral partnership focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI), green energy technologies, critical minerals, and resilient supply chains.
- ❖ ACITI aims to combine Canada's AI and clean technology expertise, India's digital infrastructure, and Australia's resource and commercialisation capabilities.
- ❖ The partnership promotes cooperation in net-zero technologies, industrial projects, and sustainable technology ecosystems.



- ❖ It was announced after a meeting of the three countries' leaders at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg (2025).

### **BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting 2026**

- ❖ The BRICS Women's Ministerial Meeting concluded in Kochi, Kerala, under India's BRICS Chairmanship 2026 to strengthen cooperation on women-led development and gender equality.
- ❖ The meeting included the BRICS Women Working Group Meeting and the BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting.
- ❖ The meeting adopted the first-ever Joint Statement under the BRICS Women Track.
- ❖ India introduced two initiatives — BRICS Digital Repository of Best Practices for sharing successful policies and innovations, and BRICS Digital Capacity Building Guidelines for strengthening institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange.
- ❖ Discussions focused on digital inclusion, women's entrepreneurship, financial empowerment, climate resilience, food security, and nutrition.
- ❖ The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and reaffirmed BRICS countries' commitment to advancing women-led development as a driver of sustainable growth.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Lead Removal Method - IIT Guwahati**

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) researchers developed a biological material using cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) to remove lead from contaminated water.

- ❖ The research team led by Professor Debasish Das from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering found that exopolysaccharides (EPS), a sugar-rich substance produced by algae, can absorb toxic lead particles.
- ❖ The developed biological material removed 66.2% of lead from polluted water by binding with lead particles through natural chemical groups.
- ❖ Cyanobacteria are naturally available in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, paddy fields and slow-moving freshwater bodies, making the method sustainable and eco-friendly.
- ❖ Conventional methods like chemical precipitation, membrane filtration and ion exchange are costly and generate secondary pollutants, while this method offers a greener alternative.



## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Wildlife Meetings 2026**

- ❖ The 91st Standing Committee meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the 46th meeting of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), and the 29th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) were held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, in July 2026.

- ❖ The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory advisory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ It advises the government on wildlife conservation and reviews and grants approval for projects affecting protected areas.
- ❖ The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is a statutory body established under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (1991 Amendment) and is chaired by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ❖ It regulates, recognises, and monitors zoos to promote wildlife conservation, education, and scientific management.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, through the 2006 Amendment, and is chaired by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ❖ It implements Project Tiger, approves tiger conservation plans, and strengthens the protection of tiger reserves.
- ❖ During the NBWL meeting, over 100 development projects requiring wildlife clearance were reviewed, while the CZA discussed zoo modernisation and wildlife health, and the NTCA reviewed tiger conservation and management measures.



### **Mizoram Natural History Museum**

- ❖ The Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram, was notified as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on the recommendation of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
- ❖ A Designated Repository is an institution responsible for preserving authenticated biological specimens accessed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and maintaining records for biodiversity conservation.

- ❖ The Natural History Museum, Mizoram, was established in 2022 under Mizoram University, a Central University, and is located in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.
- ❖ The museum will preserve voucher specimens of flora such as pteridophytes and macrofungi, and fauna including reptiles, amphibians, fishes, moths, beetles, and butterflies.
- ❖ It will also serve as a repository for type specimens of newly discovered species, supporting species identification, scientific research, and biodiversity conservation.



## Mizoram's Natural History Museum notified as India's 21st Designated Repository

### STATE NEWS

#### Guwahati Declaration on Drug Trafficking

- ❖ BRICS nations adopted the Guwahati Declaration in Guwahati, Assam, to strengthen cooperation against illicit drug trafficking and organised transnational crime.
- ❖ The declaration was adopted during a two-day meeting of BRICS anti-drug agencies and focuses on real-time intelligence sharing, information exchange, and coordinated law enforcement actions.
- ❖ BRICS countries agreed to use innovative technologies, digital tools, and data-driven approaches to combat drug trafficking networks and emerging challenges.

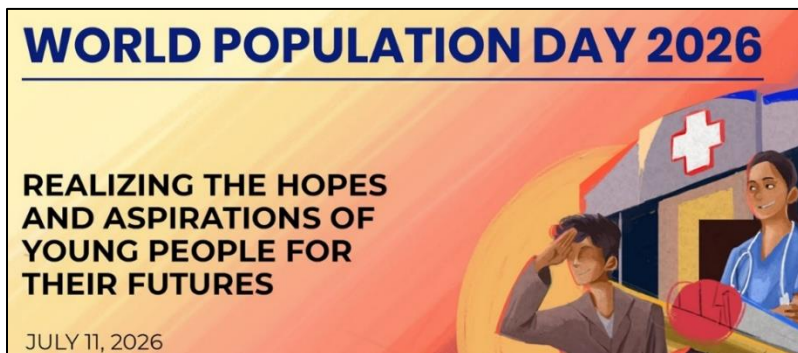


- ❖ The declaration highlighted concerns over synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances, diversion of precursor chemicals, misuse of virtual assets, and exploitation of maritime routes and digital platforms by criminal networks.
- ❖ India called for a partnership based on speed, mutual trust, and seamless intelligence sharing among BRICS drug law enforcement agencies to tackle cross-border drug syndicates.
- ❖ BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Indonesia.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Population Day 2026 - July 11



- ❖ It aims to promote family planning, reproductive health, gender equality, maternal healthcare, and sustainable development.



- ❖ It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989 and has been observed since 1990.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future."
- ❖ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) leads the global campaign, and the world's population is estimated to exceed 8.3 billion in 2026.

