November - 04

TNPSC BITS

- Indian wrestlers Kajal Dhochak (76 kg) and Neelam Sirohi (50 kg) won silver medals at the Senior World Wrestling Championships 2026 held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) more than doubled its net dollar purchases to USD 43.264 billion in August 2026, from USD 18.652 billion in July.
- The Tamil Nadu government appointed retired IAS officer S. Natarajan as the State Chief Information Commissioner.
- World Vegan Day is observed annually on 1 November to mark the founding of the Vegan Society in November 1944.
- The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is observed annually on 2 November to promote justice and accountability for crimes against journalists and protect press freedom and freedom of expression.
    - The theme for the year 2026 is "Threats Evolve. Impunity Endures."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Special Courts Expansion

TN to set up 30 special courts to fast-track POCSO, NDPS cases

The Tamil Nadu government has ordered the establishment of 30 additional special courts to expedite trials in cases involving sexual offences against children and drug-related crimes, including 26 courts exclusively for offences under the POCSO Act and four for cases registered under the NDPS Act. Tamil Nadu currently has 22 operational POCSO special courts, with another four in the process of becoming operational.

- The Tamil Nadu Government has ordered the establishment of 26 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act courts and 4 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act courts to speed up trials.

- The 26 POCSO courts include 12 special courts and 14 additional courts, with an allocation of ₹46.59 crore.
- Tamil Nadu already has 22 POCSO courts; the new courts will increase the total to 48 POCSO courts across 47 police districts.
- The new courts aim to speed up trials and ensure timely justice for child sexual abuse victims.
- 11 NDPS special courts are already functioning; four more will be established in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Chennai.
- After the expansion, Tamil Nadu will have 15 NDPS special courts to handle cases under the NDPS Act, 1985.

Vetri Magalir Goat Rearing Scheme

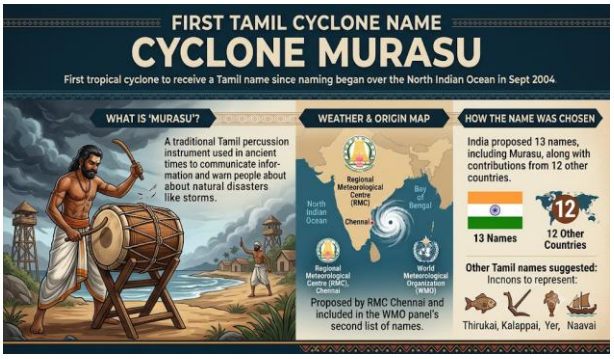
- The Tamil Nadu Government sanctioned ₹109.75 crore for the Vetri Magalir Goat Rearing Scheme for the financial year 2026–27.
- The scheme will provide 5 goats or sheep at 100% subsidy to 30,000 eligible women beneficiaries.
- It aims to create self-employment opportunities for women and strengthen the rural economy.
- Priority beneficiaries include destitute widows, destitute women, transgender persons and persons with disabilities living in rural areas.



First Tamil Cyclone Name - Murasu

- Cyclone Murasu is the first tropical cyclone to receive a Tamil name since cyclone naming over the North Indian Ocean began in September 2004.

- ‘Murasu’ refers to a traditional Tamil percussion instrument used in ancient times to communicate information and warn people about natural disasters.
- The name was proposed by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, and included in the second list of cyclone names prepared by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) panel.
- India suggested 13 names, including Murasu, along with contributions from 12 other countries.
- Other Tamil names suggested included Thirukai, Kalappai, Yer and Naavai.



Tamil Nadu Wildlife Board 2026

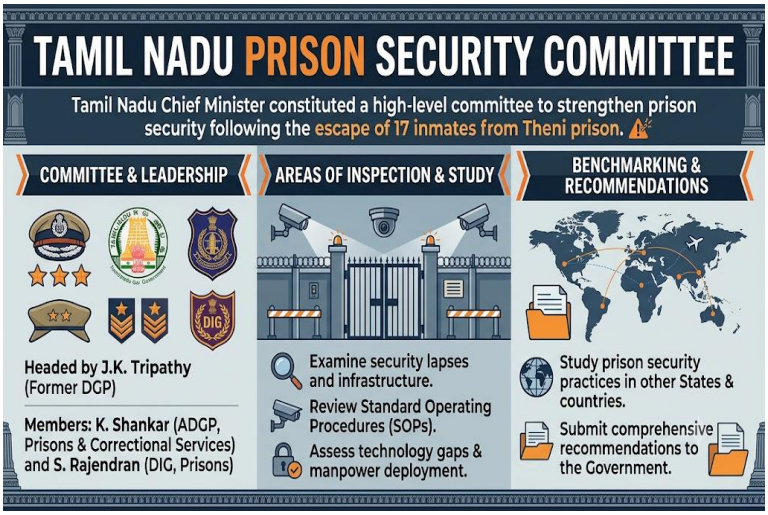


- Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the State Board for Wildlife under the chairpersonship of Chief Minister.
- The Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department issued the order under Section 6(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Minister for Forests will serve as the vice-chairperson, and three MLAs have been nominated as members.

- The Board advises the State government on protected areas, wildlife conservation policies and amendments to wildlife schedules.
- It also addresses the needs of tribal and forest-dwelling communities in relation to wildlife conservation.
- The tenure of non-official members is two years.

Tamil Nadu Prison Security Committee

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister constituted a high-level committee to strengthen prison security following the escape of 17 inmates from Theni prison.
- The committee is headed by former Director General of Police (DGP) J.K. Tripathy.
- Its members include K. Shankar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Prisons and Correctional Services, and S. Rajendran, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons.
- It will examine security lapses, infrastructure, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), technology gaps and manpower deployment.
- It will study prison security practices in other States and countries and submit recommendations to the government.

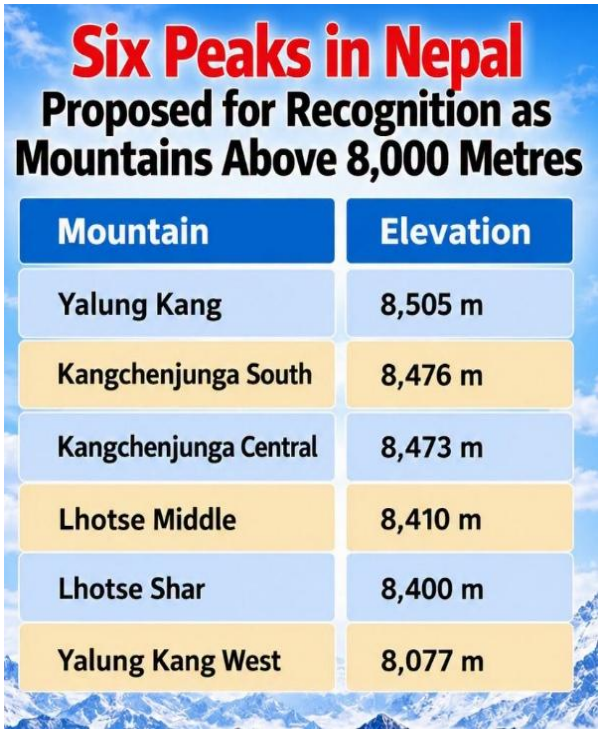


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Six More Himalayan Giants - Nepal

- Nepal has proposed six additional Himalayan peaks above 8,000 metres for separate international recognition at the 2026 General Assembly of the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) in Kathmandu.

- The six peaks are Yalung Kang (8,505 m), Kanchenjunga South (8,476 m), Kanchenjunga Central (8,473 m), Lhotse Middle (8,410 m), Lhotse Shar (8,400 m) and Yalung Kang West (8,077 m).
- If approved, Nepal will have 14 of the world's 20 internationally recognised peaks above 8,000 metres (eight-thousanders).
- Currently, only 14 eight-thousanders are internationally recognised worldwide, of which 8 are in Nepal.
- The proposal was presented by the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), and recognition is subject to international assessment.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Yerevan Pathway – COP17 Biodiversity Summit

- The 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded in Armenia, adopting the Yerevan Pathway to guide biodiversity action up to 2030.
- Around 50 agenda items were adopted, covering protected areas, forest biodiversity, invasive alien species and marine biodiversity.
- The Yerevan Pathway focuses on reducing harmful subsidies, increasing biodiversity funding and aligning national plans with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

- Around US$2 billion in new biodiversity funding was committed, and the Sevan Guidelines were established for the new permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j).
- Decisions on cooperation with other conventions and the Nagoya Protocol's multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism were deferred to COP18 in Ecuador (2028).



STATE NEWS

Agarwood Exports - Assam



- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) approved Guwahati International Airport as an export point for Assam's agarwood products.
- The approval allows direct international exports of agarwood oil, chips and related products, subject to applicable export rules and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permits.

- Assam accounts for about 81% of India's agarwood production.
- Golaghat district's agarwood products are covered under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.
- Agarwood forms when Aquilaria heartwood is infected by mould, triggering resin formation that makes the wood darker and denser.

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