



September - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government will seek Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 10 agricultural products, with ₹30 lakh allocated for the process.
 - The products include Kancheepuram Parimilagai, Poyyur Kathiri, Chidambaram Black Gram, Karumandurai Kadukkai, Thiruvaiyaru Elai Vazhai, Eraiyur Karunai Kilangu, Cuddalore Vettiver, Manapparai Brinjal, Ooty Garlic and Javvadhu Pei Sesame.
- ❖ A new freshwater flowering plant species, *Ammannia telanganensis*, discovered in Telangana, is an annual, herbaceous, semi-aquatic plant belonging to the Lythraceae family.
- ❖ Samtel HAL Display Systems Limited (SHDS), a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Samtel Avionics, inaugurated a new defence avionics manufacturing facility in Gurugram, Haryana.
 - SHDS is India's first public-private joint venture in defence avionics to indigenously design, qualify and serially produce multifunction displays (MFDs) for fighter aircraft.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh recorded the first verifiable photographic evidence of the spoon-tailed duskhawker (*Gynacantha basiguttata*) in Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, adding the species to India's dragonfly list.
- ❖ Lionel Messi of Argentina announced his retirement from international football on August 31, 2026, after leading Argentina to the 2026 FIFA World Cup final.
- ❖ Uzbekistan conferred its highest state honour, the Order of Oliy Darajali Dustlik, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN Assembly - Mahamaham 2028

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth raised a question about preparations for the Mahamaham festival 2028 during Question Hour in the Assembly.
- ❖ Question Hour is the period in which Ministers answer questions raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on matters related to government administration.
- ❖ Normally, Ministers cannot raise questions during the Question Hour under the Tamil Nadu Assembly procedure; Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar made an exception in this case.

- ❖ The Heritage Committee had inspected temples for kumbabishekam, and the government planned to speed up related works.
- ❖ Mahamaham is a major festival held at Kumbakonam and is scheduled to take place in 2028.

TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY: MAHAMAHAM 2028 PREPARATIONS

1 EXCEPTION MADE: SPEAKER PERMITS MINISTER TO ASK QUESTION

Minister R. Vinoth asks about **MAHAMAHAM 2028** festival preparations during Question Hour.

SPEAKER J.C.D. PRABHAKAR

AGRICULTURE MINISTER R. VINOTH

2 UNDERSTANDING 'QUESTION HOUR'

The period in which **MINISTERS ANSWER QUESTIONS** raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on matters related to **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**.

3 MAHAMAHAM FESTIVAL (2028)

A MAJOR FESTIVAL held at **KUMBAKONAM**. Scheduled to take place in 2028.

4 TEMPLE WORKS & PREPARATIONS

HERITAGE COMMITTEE INSPECTED TEMPLES FOR **"KUMBABISHEKAM"** (Consecration)

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SPEED UP WORKS related to the festival.

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Measures 2026

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURE MEASURES

ANNOUNCED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER R. VINOTH IN THE ASSEMBLY

1 9 SEED STORAGE WAREHOUSES

- ESTABLISHED IN 7 DISTRICTS
- COST: ₹11.64 CRORE
- TO PRESERVE SEED QUALITY, GERMINATION CAPACITY, AND VIGOUR

2 4 NEW SUB-AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION CENTRES

- WITH SEED STORAGE FACILITIES
- COST: ₹2.85 CRORE
- PROVIDING QUALITY AGRICULTURAL INPUTS CLOSER TO VILLAGES

3 BEEKEEPING & HONEY EXTRACTION

28,500 BEEKEEPING BOXES

2,850 HONEY EXTRACTION UNITS

COST: ₹6.84 CRORE TO BE PROVIDED TO FARMERS

4 FPO SUPPORT

5 FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS (FPOs)

SUBSIDIES FOR REFRIGERATED CARGO VEHICLES

100 FPOs

GET SUPPORT TO PURCHASE ELECTRONIC MOISTURE METERS

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth announced several agricultural infrastructure and farmer-support measures in the Assembly.
- ❖ 9 seed storage warehouses will be established in 7 districts at a cost of ₹11.64 crore to preserve seed quality, germination capacity and vigour.
- ❖ 4 new Sub-Agricultural Extension Centres with seed storage facilities will be built at a cost of ₹2.85 crore to provide quality agricultural inputs closer to villages.
- ❖ 28,500 beekeeping boxes and 2,850 honey extraction units will be provided to farmers at a cost of ₹6.84 crore.

- ❖ 5 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will receive subsidies for refrigerated cargo vehicles, while 100 FPOs will get support to purchase electronic moisture meters.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership

- ❖ India and Uzbekistan have upgraded their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and set a \$5 billion annual trade target by 2030.
- ❖ The two countries signed/exchanged 11 agreements covering mining, tourism, culture, education, Ayurveda and other sectors.
- ❖ They agreed to establish a framework for the long-term supply of uranium from Uzbekistan to India for peaceful civil nuclear cooperation.
- ❖ Cooperation will expand in critical minerals, defence, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology (IT), digital public infrastructure and education.
- ❖ UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps will be enabled to scan Uzbekistan's UZQR for merchant payments, while India announced a \$1 million grant for afforestation in the Aral Sea region.
- ❖ The two sides also agreed to conserve the Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa Buddhist sites in southern Uzbekistan.



**India-Uzbekistan Power Move:
\$5 Billion Trade Target Set,
Long-Term Uranium Supply
Framework Agreed**

India-Russia Fuel Trade

- ❖ India has emerged as a key supplier of petrol to Russia as Ukrainian drone attacks disrupted Russian refinery operations.

- ❖ Russia's seaborne petrol imports reached a record 125,000 barrels per day (bpd) in August 2026.
- ❖ Indian refiners supplied about 1 million barrels of petrol to Russia during the last two months, mainly from the Vadinar refinery in Gujarat.
- ❖ India imported more than 2.6 million bpd of Russian crude oil in June and July 2026.
- ❖ Russia extended its petrol export ban until January 2027 amid domestic fuel shortages.



EU Membership - Iceland



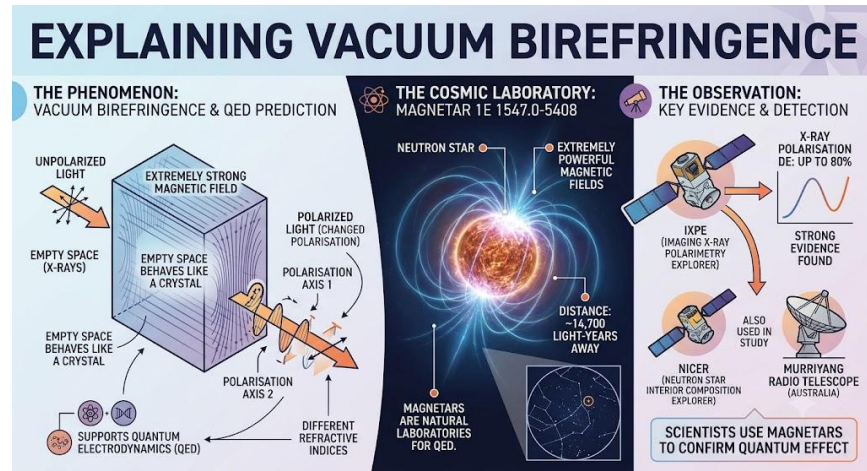
- ❖ Icelandic voters rejected a proposal to resume negotiations on joining the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Around 53% of voters opposed restarting EU membership talks in the referendum.
- ❖ Supporters said EU membership could help reduce inflation and interest rates and provide greater economic stability through the euro.

- ❖ Opponents said Iceland already benefits from the EU single market and Schengen free-travel zone without full membership obligations.
- ❖ The referendum brought the long-running debate over Iceland's EU membership to an end.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Vacuum Birefringence

- ❖ Scientists found strong evidence of vacuum birefringence around the magnetar 1E 1547.0–5408, supporting a prediction of quantum electrodynamics (QED).
- ❖ Vacuum birefringence occurs when an extremely strong magnetic field makes empty space behave like a crystal and changes the polarisation of light.
- ❖ The IXPE (Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer) satellite detected X-ray polarisation of up to 80% from the magnetar, located about 14,700 light-years away.
- ❖ The study also used NICER (Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer) and Australia's Murriyang radio telescope.
- ❖ Magnetars are neutron stars with extremely powerful magnetic fields, making them natural laboratories for studying this quantum effect.



Nancy Grace Roman Telescope

- ❖ NASA is preparing to launch the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, a next-generation observatory to study dark energy, dark matter, gravity and planets beyond the Solar System.
- ❖ It is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer, and follows the Hubble Space Telescope (1990) and James Webb Space Telescope (2021).

- ❖ The telescope is planned to launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, and will travel to Lagrange Point 2 (L2), about 1.6 million km from Earth.
- ❖ Its main survey is expected to cover over two billion galaxies, helping scientists study the growth of cosmic structures and the expansion of the universe.

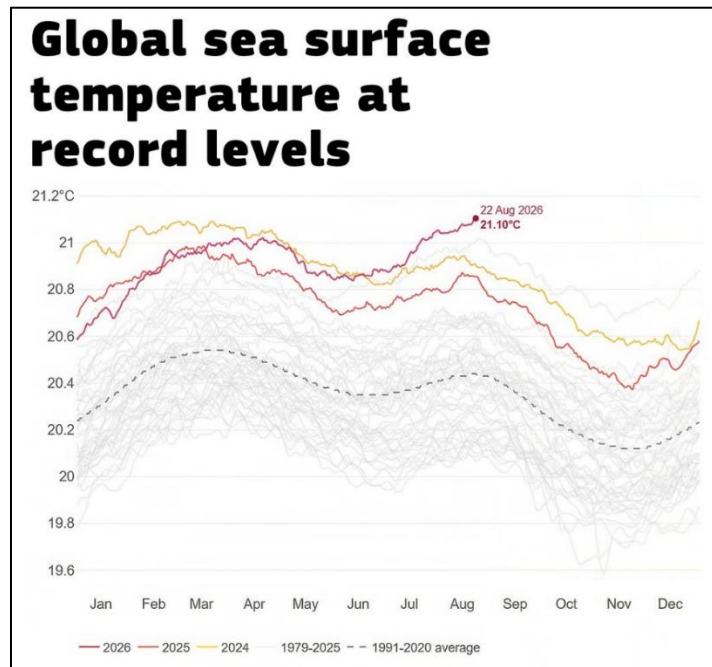


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Global Ocean Temperature

- ❖ The global daily average sea surface temperature reached a record 21.104°C on August 22, 2026, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- ❖ The extra-polar ocean (60°S–60°N) recorded the temperature, slightly exceeding the previous record of 21.09°C set on March 1, 2024.
- ❖ The August record is unusual because global ocean temperatures normally peak during March and April; the previous highest August value was 20.98°C in 2023.
- ❖ The El Niño developing in the tropical Pacific is adding heat to oceans already warmed by long-term human-driven climate change.
- ❖ On August 22, 1979, the same ocean region averaged 20.15°C, nearly 1°C cooler than in 2026.

- ❖ Warmer oceans can contribute to sea-level rise, marine heatwaves, coral and seagrass damage, stronger rainfall and storms, and reduced ocean absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂).



Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation



- ❖ Assam's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) has completed 25 years of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation.

- ❖ CWRC, established at Panbari near Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, is India's first dedicated facility to hand-raise, treat and release orphaned and injured wild animals.
- ❖ It is jointly run by the Assam Forest Department, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).
- ❖ The centre has rescued 10,000+ animals and released about 68% of them back into the wild.
- ❖ It helped reintroduce one-horned rhinoceroses into Manas National Park and rehabilitated Asiatic black bears, wild buffaloes and hoolock gibbons.

El Niño Emergency - Ecuador



- ❖ Ecuador declared a red alert across the country due to the ongoing El Niño climate phenomenon, which officials warn could become the strongest on record.
- ❖ El Niño is a climate phenomenon in which surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean rise, causing changes in winds, atmospheric pressure and rainfall.
- ❖ The phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America and worsening wildfires in Indonesia.
- ❖ Scientists expect the current El Niño to peak by the end of 2026 and potentially contribute to record global heat in 2027.
- ❖ Ecuador is preparing for droughts and wildfires in its Amazon region, while El Niño can also disrupt fishing and bird migration.

- ❖ Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Peru have also declared emergencies related to El Niño.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

King Oyo of Tooro Demise

King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the Omukama of the Tooro Kingdom in Western Uganda, Has Died at the age of 34 on Thursday, August 27, 2026.



- ❖ King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the traditional ruler of the Tooro Kingdom in western Uganda, died at the age of 34.
- ❖ He became King of Tooro in 1995 at just three years old after the death of his father and was formally crowned at 18 in 2010.
- ❖ Guinness World Records listed King Oyo as the world's youngest reigning monarch.
- ❖ The Tooro Kingdom, founded in the early 19th century, follows a hereditary system and has no political power under Uganda's elected government.
- ❖ King Oyo was the 13th monarch of Tooro and ruled over more than two million people.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Coconut Day 2026 - September 02

- ❖ The day aims to highlight the agricultural, economic and everyday importance of coconut.

- ❖ The day was first observed in 2009, with September 2 marking the founding day of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), now called the International Coconut Community (ICC).
- ❖ Coconut is called the “Tree of Life” because its fruit, water, flesh, oil, husk, shell, leaves and wood are used for different purposes.
- ❖ Coconut is an important tropical crop and supports farmers, small businesses, local markets and coconut-based industries in many countries.
- ❖ Major coconut-growing countries include India, Indonesia and the Philippines, along with other countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

