



September - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Super Garuda Shield 2026 began in Indonesia as a joint military exercise involving the United States, Indonesia, and 13 other troop-contributing nations.
- ❖ Apple Inc. announced a leadership change on September 1, 2026, with Tim Cook becoming Executive Chairman after serving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) since 2011, and John Ternus becoming the new CEO.
- ❖ Rare blue-violet flowers resembling Neelakurinji have bloomed along trekking trails in Kudremukh, Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka.
 - Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) is a Western Ghats flowering plant famous for mass flowering, typically at a 12-year interval.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned Nipun, the second indigenous Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel (DSV), at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- ❖ India inaugurated its first-of-its-kind Green Forge Complex at the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council-National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Mohali, Punjab.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Projects

Semiconductor manufacturing park to come up in Kancheepuram, says CM Vijay

A Semiconductor Electronics Manufacturing Park would be established at Madhuramangalam in Kancheepuram district through SIPCOT at a cost of Rs 175 crore to attract large-scale investments in the semiconductor sector, CM Vijay announced on August 31.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced new industrial projects in the State.
- ❖ A Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Park will be established at Madhuramangalam, Kancheepuram, through SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) at a cost of ₹175 crore.

- ❖ A Coimbatore FinTech Hub will be established under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at ₹400 crore through TIDCO (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation).
- ❖ A Multi-Modal Logistics Hub will be established in the Tiruchi region to support industries and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- ❖ The government also announced a new supercritical thermal power station in Thoothukudi, adding to the State's industrial and power infrastructure.

Tiruchy Dry Port Project

- ❖ The Central and Tamil Nadu governments have given in-principle approval to establish a Multi Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH/Dry Port) in Tiruchy.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) will soon begin a detailed study to identify a suitable location and prepare the project proposal.
- ❖ The dry port is expected to support industries and exporters in Tiruchy, Karur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur.
- ❖ It will provide container handling, warehousing, cold-chain, truck terminal, cargo consolidation, distribution and Customs clearance facilities.
- ❖ The facility could reduce transportation and cargo-handling costs and improve connectivity with major ports in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ Proposed port connectivity includes Chennai, Kamarajar, Kattupalli and VOC Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, and Cochin and Vizhinjam in Kerala.



Chennai Rain Futures Contract

- ❖ The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) launched RAINCHNNAI, a weather futures contract linked to Chennai's Northeast monsoon rainfall.

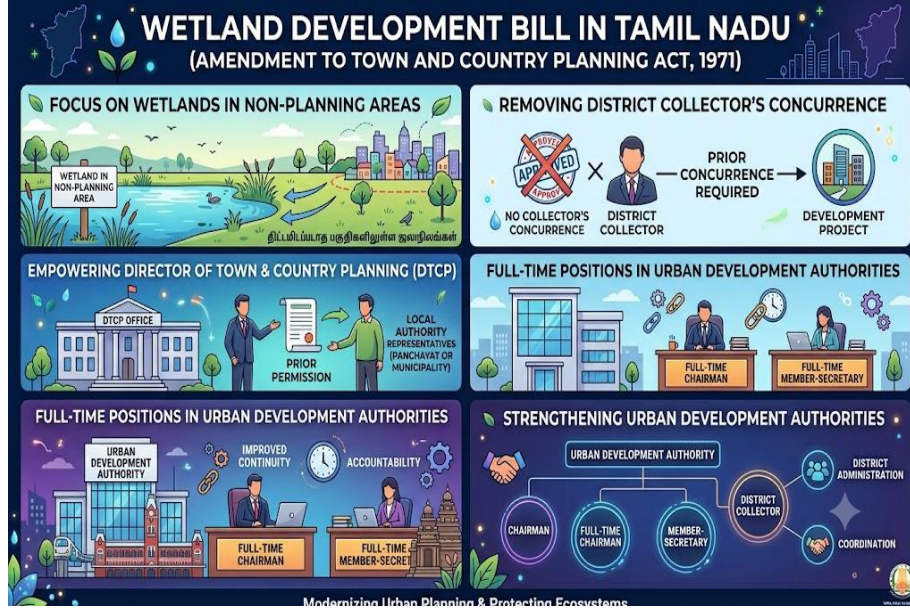
- ❖ The contract is cash-settled and uses official India Meteorological Department (IMD) rainfall data from Meenambakkam and Nungambakkam stations.
- ❖ Chennai receives nearly 70% of its annual rainfall from the Northeast monsoon, mainly during October–December.
- ❖ RAINCHNNAI uses the Cumulative Deviation Rainfall (CDR) model to measure rainfall deviation from the Long Period Average (LPA).
- ❖ The contract initially has expiries in September, October, November and December.
- ❖ It is designed to help sectors such as agriculture, logistics, retail and utilities manage financial risks caused by rainfall variations.



Wetland Development Bill in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu introduced a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, regarding wetland development in non-planning areas.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to remove the requirement for prior concurrence of the District Collector before developing wetlands in non-planning areas.

- ❖ It proposes to empower the Director of Town and Country Planning to grant prior permission to local authorities for such development.
- ❖ The Bill also proposes full-time Chairman and full-time Member-Secretary posts in Urban Development Authorities to improve continuity and accountability.
- ❖ The District Collector will continue as a member of the Urban Development Authority for coordination with the district administration.



Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund

ஸ்டார்ட் ஸ்மார்ட் சீட் ஃபண்ட் திட்டம்

தமிழ்நாட்டில் இயங்கும் தொடக்க நிலையில் உள்ள புத்தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு, ஆரம்பக் கட்டத்தில் நிதி திரட்டுவதில் ஏற்படும் சிக்கல்களுக்கு தீர்வு காணும் வகையில் வழங்கப்படும் ரூ.15 இலட்சம் வரையிலான ஆதார நிதி தற்போது ரூ.25 இலட்சமாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டு, தமிழ்நாடு ஸ்டார்ட் ஸ்மார்ட் சீட் ஃபண்ட் (Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund) திட்டமாக செயல்படுத்தப்படும்

அமைச்சர் மதன் ராஜா அறிவிப்பு

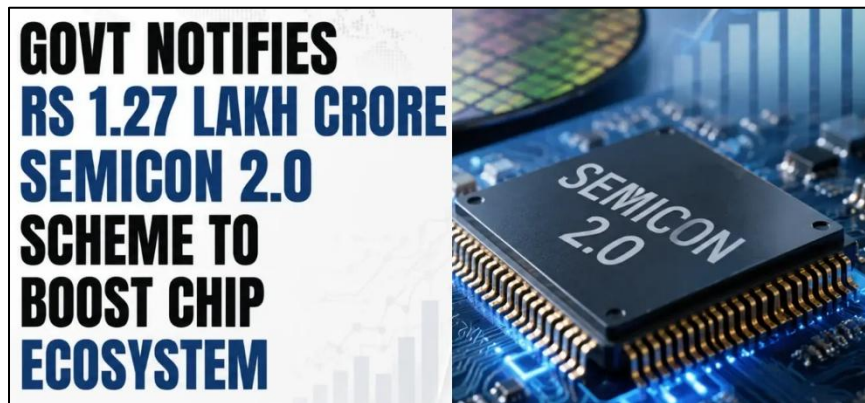
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has enhanced seed funding for early-stage startups from ₹15 lakh to ₹25 lakh under the Tamil Nadu Start Smart Seed Fund.
- ❖ The fund aims to support startups in their early stages and help them overcome initial funding difficulties.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented through StartupTN, the State's startup-support agency.

- ❖ The enhanced assistance will provide greater financial support for the growth and development of Tamil Nadu-based startups.

NATIONAL NEWS

Semicon India Programme 2.0

- ❖ Government notified the Semicon India Programme 2.0 with an outlay of ₹1.27 lakh crore to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- ❖ The scheme has six pillars, covering the semiconductor value chain from wafer fabrication to chip production, along with related ecosystem development.
- ❖ It aims to make India a major global semiconductor value-chain player and support domestic manufacturing and chip design.
- ❖ The programme focuses on building a strong talent pool, investment ecosystem, policy support and ease of doing business.
- ❖ Semicon India Programme 1.0 helped move approved projects towards ground-breaking and commercial production, increasing industry confidence.
- ❖ Semicon 2.0 focuses on the complete semiconductor ecosystem with a long-term vision for the sector.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SCO Summit 2026

- ❖ The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The summit marked 25 years of the SCO and was held under the theme "Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity."

- ❖ PM Modi highlighted “Security, Connectivity and Opportunity” as key pillars and called for dismantling the entire terrorism ecosystem, including financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens.
- ❖ He stressed dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and called for a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine and West Asian conflicts.
- ❖ India also held bilateral engagements with Russia, China, Iran, Mongolia and Tajikistan during the summit.
- ❖ The SCO originated as the “Shanghai Five” in 1996 and became the SCO in 2001; India and Pakistan joined in 2017, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's Coconut Exports Rise

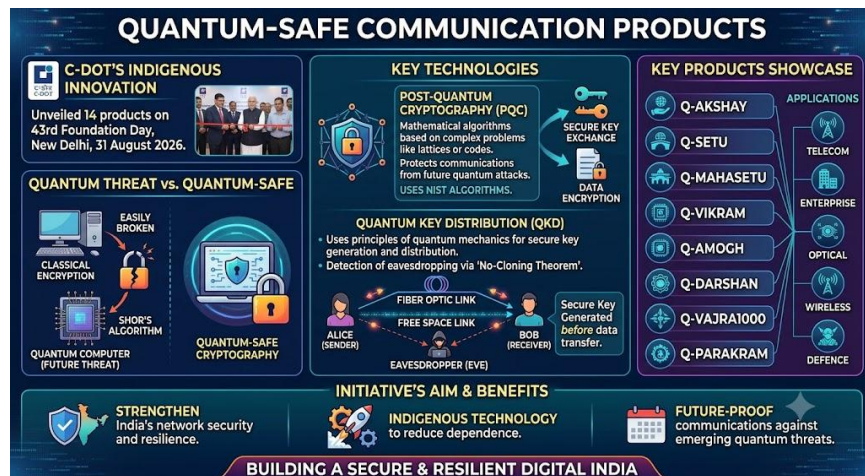


- ❖ India's coconut product exports increased 62% in FY 2025–26, reaching ₹7,038.35 crore (USD 794.70 million) from ₹4,349.03 crore in the previous fiscal year.

- ❖ India remained the world's largest coconut producer, contributing 31.24% of global coconut production.
- ❖ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh together account for 91.11% of India's coconut production.
- ❖ Major value-added exports include virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water and activated carbon, used in food, cosmetics and industrial applications.
- ❖ The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is the statutory body for coconut-sector development; it had 8,700 registered coconut product exporters as of 31 July 2026.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2026–27 introduced the Coconut Promotion Scheme with an allocation of ₹350 crore; the sector supports nearly 30 million livelihoods in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Quantum-Safe Communication Products



- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) unveiled 14 indigenous quantum products on its 43rd Foundation Day in New Delhi on 31 August 2026.
- ❖ The products cover Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) and specialised components for secure communication.
- ❖ Key products include Q-AKSHAY, Q-SETU, Q-MAHASETU, Q-VIKRAM, Q-AMOGH, Q-DARSHAN, Q-VAJRA1000 and Q-PARAKRAM for telecom, enterprise, optical, wireless and defence applications.
- ❖ They use National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Post-Quantum Cryptography algorithms to protect communications from future quantum-computing threats.

- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen the security and resilience of India's communication networks through indigenous technology.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India's Open Natural Ecosystems

INDIA LAUNCHES ITS FIRST GUIDE TO GRASSLANDS

Mapping the country's overlooked open ecosystems and highlighting their role in nature, livelihoods and climate resilience.

- ❖ India launched its first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems of India at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ The guide recognises grasslands, savannas, deserts, scrublands, ravines and rocky plateaus as important ecosystems instead of "wastelands".
- ❖ It covers ecosystems such as the Thar Desert, Banni grasslands, Deccan savannas, Aravalli scrublands, Yamuna-Chambal ravines and Tamil Nadu's Theri Kaadu.
- ❖ It was developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with institutions including the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ The guide highlights biodiversity, soil carbon, hydrology and pastoral livelihoods, including communities such as Raikas, Dhangars, Gujjars and Bakarwals.

- ❖ It stresses that tree planting is not always suitable, as species such as the Great Indian Bustard and Blackbuck depend on open habitats, which also store significant below-ground carbon.

STATE NEWS

Sone River Water Pact

- ❖ Bihar and Jharkhand signed an MoU to share Sone River water, resolving a nearly 25-year-old inter-State water dispute.
- ❖ Sone River is an important right-bank tributary of the Ganga; it originates in the Maikal highlands near Amarkantak and finally joins the Ganga in Bihar near Patna.
- ❖ It flows through Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, with important tributaries including Rihand, Kanhar and North Koel.
- ❖ The Indrapuri Barrage (Sone Barrage) in Rohtas district, Bihar, is an important irrigation structure on the river and was commissioned in 1968.
- ❖ The new agreement will support irrigation and drinking-water needs in Bihar's Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna, and Jharkhand's Palamu, Garhwa and other regions.

