



September - 08

TNPSC BITS

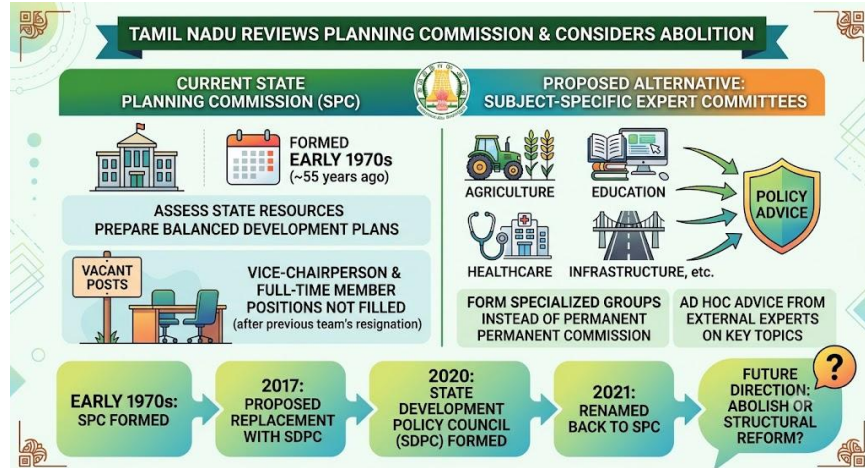
- ❖ India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves reached a record high of US\$740.8 billion in the week ended August 28, 2026.
- ❖ Adobe has announced Anil Chakravathy as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective December 1, 2026.
- ❖ India hosted the three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum in New Delhi, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit, inaugurated by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant.
 - The forum discussed modern jurisprudence, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial administration, international commercial mediation, sustainable development and cross-border enforcement of arbitral awards.
- ❖ Malaysia declared an emergency in Serian, Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo), after Air Pollution Index (API) reached 519 due to Indonesian forest-fire haze.
 - The emergency covers a 20-km radius, with smoke crossing into Sarawak from Indonesia.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force successfully conducted a drop trial of the indigenously designed Khagantak-243, a long-range glide bomb.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

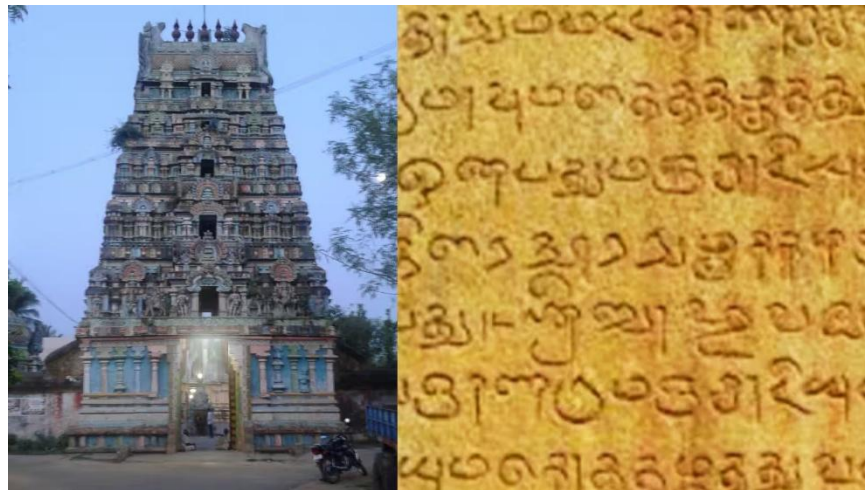
Tamil Nadu on Planning Commission

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is considering abolishing the State Planning Commission (SPC), which was formed about 55 years ago.
- ❖ The government has not filled the posts of Vice-Chairperson and full-time members after the previous team resigned.
- ❖ The government is considering subject-specific expert committees instead of a permanent Planning Commission for policy advice.
- ❖ The SPC was created in the early 1970s to assess State resources and prepare plans for their effective and balanced use.
- ❖ In 2017, the government proposed replacing the SPC with the State Development Policy Council (SDPC), which was formed in 2020 and renamed SPC in 2021.
- ❖ The Commission's "only contribution" is to provide policy inputs.

- ❖ In addition to the SPC, the services of the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES) and the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research (DEAR) are utilised by the government for policy advice.
- ❖ After M. Karunanidhi of the DMK came back to power in January 1989, the practice of naming the incumbent Chief Minister as the ex-officio head was revived.



Chola-Era Inscription

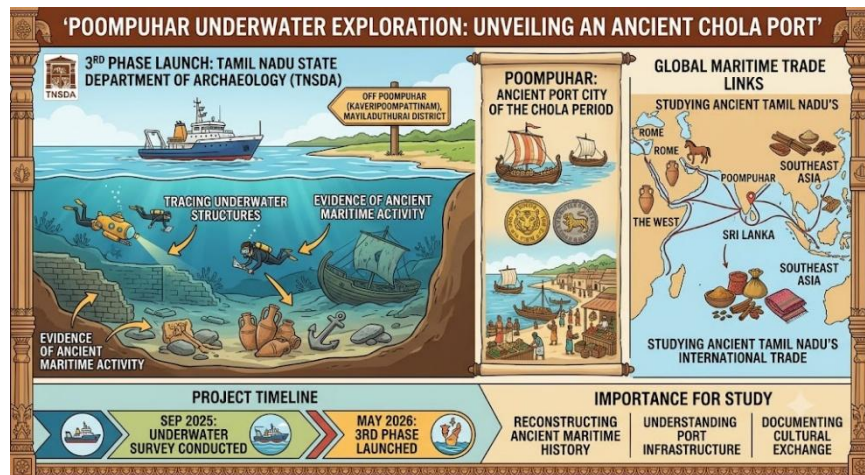


- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documented a Chola-era inscription at the Vedapureswarar Temple in Therazhundur, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The inscription dates to 1003 CE, the 18th regnal year of Rajaraja Chola I, and is written in Tamil on a stone pillar in the ardhamandapa.
- ❖ It records a donation of 21 kalanju of gold by the Mahasabha of Tiruvazhundur, a brahmadeya (tax-free land granted to Brahmins), for food offerings (neyyamudu) to Tirukadavudaiya Nayanar.

- ❖ The donated gold was intended to generate interest for purchasing paddy and meeting daily food-offering expenses.
- ❖ ASI recorded 15 Chola inscriptions at the temple, while more than 85 new stone inscriptions were recorded across Tamil Nadu during its August 2026 field survey.
- ❖ ASI plans to upload 28,000 Tamil Nadu inscriptions, including estampages (stone impressions) and transcripts, on the Bharat SHRI portal for free access by students, researchers and the public.

Poompuhar Underwater Exploration

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) launched the third phase of underwater archaeological exploration off the coast of Poompuhar (Kaveripoompattinam) in Mayiladuthurai district.
- ❖ Poompuhar, also known as Kaveripoompattinam, was an ancient port city of the Chola period.
- ❖ The exploration is aimed at tracing underwater structures and evidence of ancient maritime activity off the Poompuhar coast.
- ❖ The site is important for studying the maritime trade links of ancient Tamil Nadu with Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and the West.
- ❖ The third phase follows the underwater survey conducted in September 2025.

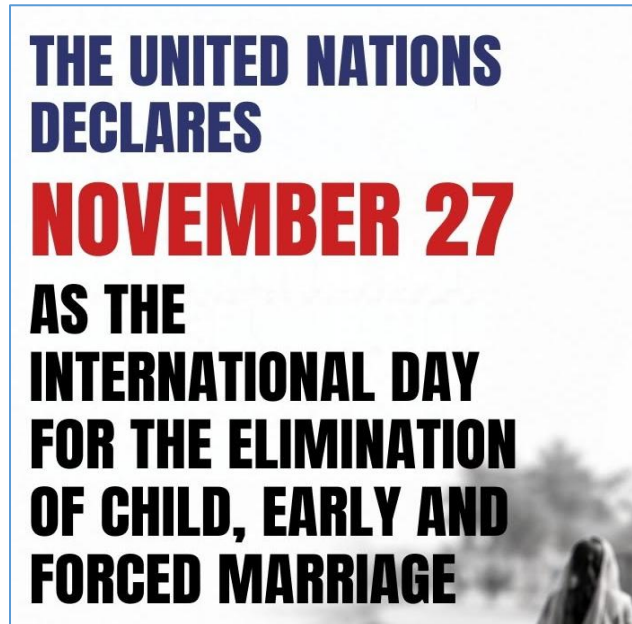


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Child Marriage Elimination Day - November 27

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

- ❖ The date is significant for India as the 'Bal Vivah Mukti Bharat' campaign was launched on November 27, 2024.
- ❖ The campaign was started in 2023 by NDTV and Just Rights for Children, while Just Rights for Children founder Bhuwan Ribhu proposed the UN resolution.
- ❖ According to National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), 23.3% of women aged 20–24 was married before 18; NFHS-6 (2023–24) reported 20.1%.
- ❖ India aims to reduce child marriage prevalence by 10% by 2026, while Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, Target 5.3 calls for eliminating child, early and forced marriage by 2030.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Heat to Electricity Breakthrough

- ❖ Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), University of Sydney and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) developed a crystal that produces nearly 1,000 times higher thermoelectric voltage than the textbook limit.
- ❖ They used scandium nitride (ScN) thin films doped with magnesium to create a heavily doped, highly compensated semiconductor.
- ❖ The discovery challenges the long-accepted limit of the Seebeck effect, which converts a temperature difference into electrical voltage.
- ❖ The material can support ultrasensitive temperature sensors, heat detectors and quantum sensing devices.

- ❖ The films were confirmed to be single-crystalline and epitaxial using X-ray diffraction and atomic-resolution electron microscopy.



Indian scientists have developed a semiconductor that can generate unusually high electrical voltage from small temperature differences, breaking a century-old limit in thermoelectric research. The technology could enable extremely weak light detection, with applications in sensitive temperature sensors, thermal imaging, heat-flow detection and future quantum technologies.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Vulture Reintroduction – Maharashtra



- ❖ Melghat and Pench Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra have emerged as India's most successful sites for the reintroduction of captive-bred vultures.

- ❖ 29 vultures released across the two reserves between December 2025 and January 2026 recorded survival rates of up to 78%.
- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) reported that the results show the suitability of prey-rich and undisturbed tiger habitats for vulture reintroduction.
- ❖ The Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) is classified as Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ The reintroduction effort aims to conserve and restore declining vulture populations and strengthen their future in India.

High Risk Glacial Lakes - Sikkim

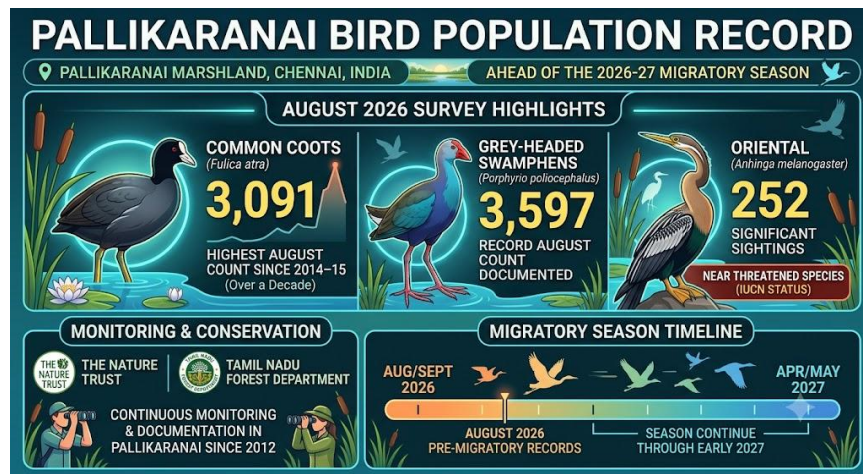


- ❖ Sikkim has identified 40 high-hazard glacial lakes, including 16 in the highest-risk Category A for possible Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- ❖ Glacial lakes form from melting glaciers and accumulated meltwater; GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst due to triggers such as excess water or earthquakes.
- ❖ Shako Chho Lake has been identified as the most vulnerable to a GLOF; Sikkim is preparing mitigation measures for it.
- ❖ Sikkim's Department of Science and Technology has been the nodal department for GLOF hazard assessment and mitigation since February 2025.

- ❖ Sikkim is working on what could be India's first dedicated GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol, while satellite imagery, remote sensing and early-warning sensors are being used for monitoring.

Pallikaranai Bird Population Record

- ❖ Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai recorded high numbers of native waterbirds ahead of the 2026–27 migratory bird season.
- ❖ 3,091 common coots were recorded in August 2026, the highest August count since 2014–15.
- ❖ A record 3,597 grey-headed swamphens were also recorded in August.
- ❖ 252 oriental darters, a Near Threatened bird, were sighted.
- ❖ The Nature Trust has been monitoring and documenting birds in the marshland with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department since 2012.
- ❖ The migratory bird season is expected to continue from August/September 2026 to April/May 2027.



Myristica Swamps issue

- ❖ A new study warned that rare Myristica swamps in the Western Ghats of Kerala are close to extinction due to habitat loss.
- ❖ These freshwater swamps occur mainly in Kerala, with small distributions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Kerala now has only 53 patches in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Anchal and Kulathupuzha forest areas.
- ❖ They act as natural water-holding systems, helping groundwater recharge, maintaining perennial streams and reducing floods.

- ❖ Logging, drainage and conversion into paddy fields, plantations and farms have caused their decline.



Kākāpō Conservation Recovery

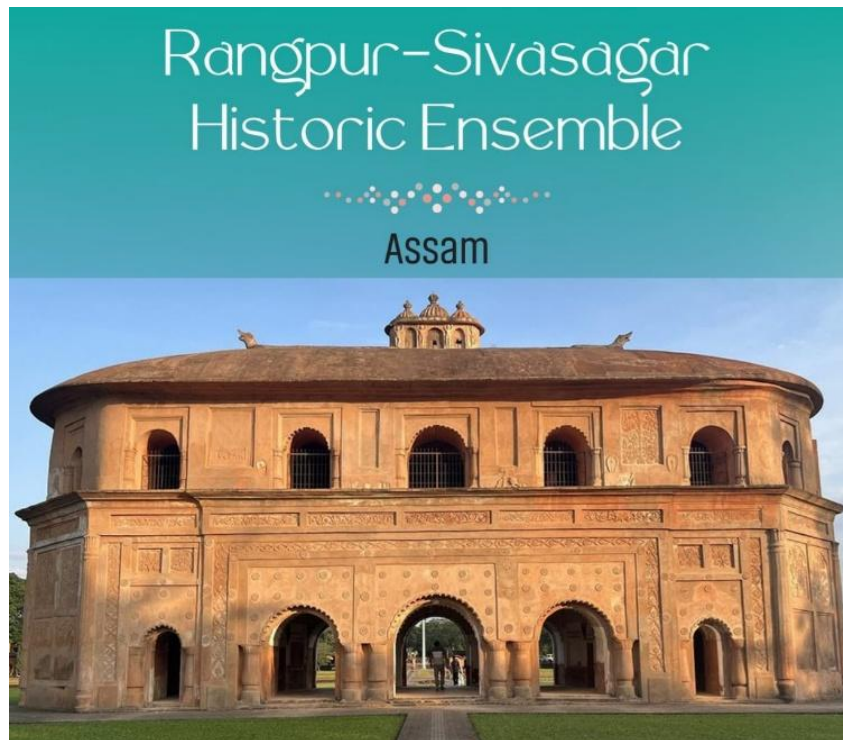


- ❖ New Zealand's critically endangered kākāpō, the world's heaviest parrot, has reached 325 birds, up from 51 in 1995.
- ❖ The kākāpō, scientifically known as *Strigops habroptila*, is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

- ❖ The 2026 breeding season produced 90 chicks, the highest recorded under the modern recovery programme.
- ❖ Kākāpō are flightless parrots native to New Zealand.
- ❖ Conservationists moved surviving birds to predator-free offshore islands and began intensive monitoring and breeding programmes.
- ❖ They usually breed once every 2–4 years, when rimu trees produce abundant fruit.

STATE NEWS

UNESCO List - Sivasagar Heritage



- ❖ The Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble in Assam has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List.
- ❖ India submitted its nomination dossier to UNESCO under cultural criteria (iii) and (iv).
- ❖ The ensemble includes Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, Namdang Stone Bridge, and the large tanks of Sivasagar, Joysagar and Gaurisagar.
- ❖ The Ahom dynasty ruled the Brahmaputra Valley from 1228 to 1826, with its political and ceremonial centre in the Sivasagar region.

- ❖ With this addition and three other properties, India's UNESCO Tentative List reached 73 properties.
- ❖ Charaideo Moidams, the royal burial mounds of the Ahoms, became India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024.

Gollala Gudi National Monument - Telangana

- ❖ Gollala Gudi Temple in Palampet village, Mulugu district, Telangana, was declared a Monument of National Importance.
- ❖ The declaration was made through a Gazette notification by the Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
- ❖ The temple is a Trikutalaya, meaning it has three sanctums, and belongs broadly to the Kakatiya period (12th–13th centuries CE).
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will take charge of its conservation, including addressing waterlogging and improving the visitor pathway.
- ❖ With its inclusion, the number of ASI-protected monuments in Telangana increased to 10.
- ❖ The temple is located near the Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site associated with Kakatiya architecture.

