



September - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A new frog species, *Amolops ammachi*, was discovered in the Jampui Hills of Tripura and named after Padmini Varkey (Ammachi) by a team led by S. D. Biju of the University of Delhi, the 'Frogman of India'.
 - *Amolops ammachi* belongs to the Cascade Frog genus *Amolops*.
- ❖ IIT Madras-incubated Bodhan AI, in partnership with AI4Bharat, launched four open-weight AI models for Indian languages.
 - The models cover speech recognition, speech generation, machine translation and Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
- ❖ *Gegeneophis chandgadi*, a new legless amphibian (caecilian), was discovered in Buzawade village, Kolhapur, Maharashtra; it belongs to the genus *Gegeneophis*.
 - It was named after the Chandgadi dialect of Marathi spoken in the region.
- ❖ India launched 'Agni Kawach', its first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered safety platform, at the 6th International Climate Summit (ICS-2026) in New Delhi.
 - The platform uses AI to support industrial safety processes, strengthen industrial safety, and build a global industrial safety ecosystem.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based Apollyon Dynamics developed Ahuti Mk II, India's fastest multirotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), with a certified top speed of 498 km/h.
 - Ahuti Mk II is an electric interceptor drone designed to chase and neutralise hostile drones and loitering munitions.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Salt Reduction Mission

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced a State-wide mission to reduce salt intake among the public.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends less than 5 grams of salt daily, while Tamil Nadu's average intake is 7–8 grams.
- ❖ About 88% of salt intake in the South Indian diet comes from salt added during home cooking.
- ❖ A State-wide urine-sample survey will measure salt consumption, while government kitchens will adopt standards to gradually reduce salt use.

- ❖ The government will study low-sodium salt substitutes and provide salt-reduction counselling through Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and Health and Wellness Centres.



Census Caste Enumeration in Tamil Nadu

CENSUS: CASTE ENUMERATION IN TAMIL NADU.
Tamil Nadu Assembly Unanimously Adopted Resolution urging the Centre.

PROBLEM: REMOVING THE 'OPEN-COLUMN METHOD'  - Urged Centre to remove the Open-Column Method - Avoids issues where respondents self-declare their caste for BCs, MBCs, DNCs	PROPOSED SOLUTION: PRE-LOADED NOTIFIED LISTS  - Pre-load notified BC, MBC, and DNC lists into the Census 2027 portal - Enumerate BCs, MBCs, DNCs using defined lists (Same manner as SCs as SCs and STs) SAME ENUMERATION METHOD AS SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs) & SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs)	REASON: ACCURATE DATA & NEED FOR OBC DETAILS  - Accurate Caste-wise data is essential for effective policies - OBC caste details have been omitted from post-Independence censuses
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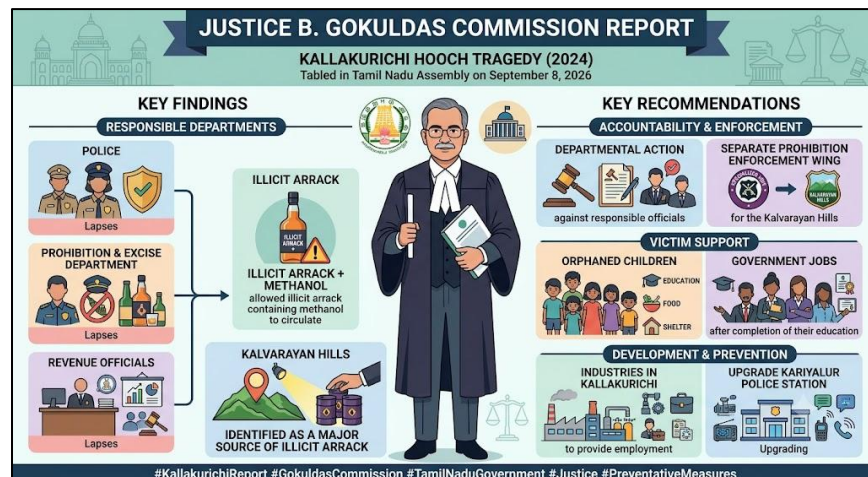
#TamilNaduAssembly #Census2027 #CasteEnumeration #DataAccuracy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to remove the 'Open-Column Method' for enumerating Backward Classes (BCs), Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and Denotified Communities (DNCs).
- ❖ The resolution urged the Centre to pre-load the notified BC, MBC and DNC lists into the Census 2027 enumeration portal for caste data collection.

- ❖ It sought to enumerate BCs, MBCs and DNCs in the same manner as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), instead of allowing respondents to self-declare their caste.
- ❖ The resolution said accurate caste-wise data was needed as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) caste details had been omitted from post-Independence censuses.

Justice Gokuldas Commission Report

- ❖ The Justice B. Gokuldas Commission report on the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy was tabled in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on September 8, 2026.
- ❖ The Commission held the Police, Prohibition and Excise Department, and Revenue officials responsible for lapses that allowed illicit arrack containing methanol to circulate.
- ❖ It recommended departmental action against responsible officials and creating a separate Prohibition Enforcement Wing for the Kalvarayan Hills, identified as a major source of illicit arrack.
- ❖ The report recommended education, food and shelter for children orphaned by the tragedy and government jobs after completion of their education.
- ❖ It also suggested setting up industries in Kallakurichi to provide employment and upgrading the Kariyalur police station.

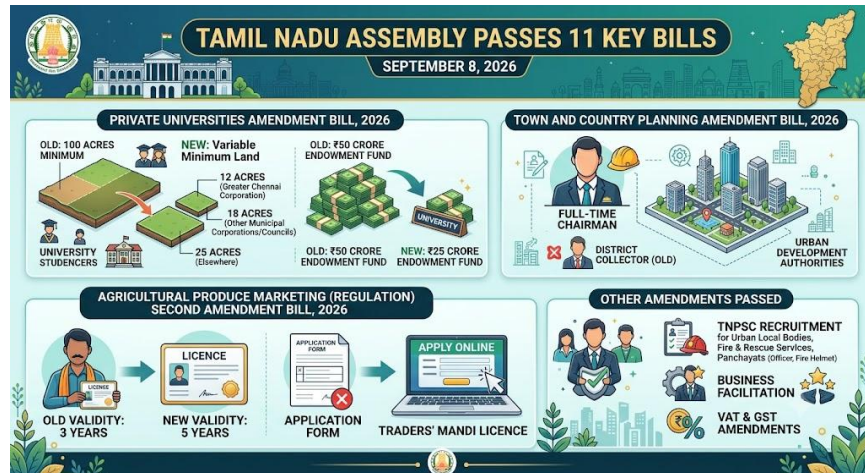


11 Bills passed by T.N. Assembly

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed 11 Bills on September 8, 2026, including amendments to the Town and Country Planning and Private Universities laws.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026 reduces the minimum land requirement from 100 acres to 12 acres in Greater Chennai

Corporation, 18 acres in other municipal corporations/councils and 25 acres elsewhere.

- ❖ It also reduces the required permanent endowment fund from ₹50 crore to ₹25 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026 provides for a full-time chairman for urban development authorities instead of the concerned District Collector.
- ❖ The Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2026 increases traders' mandi licence validity from 3 to 5 years and makes licence applications online.
- ❖ The Assembly also passed amendments related to Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) recruitment for urban local bodies, fire and rescue services, panchayats, business facilitation, Value Added Tax (VAT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST).



NATIONAL NEWS

Biotech Investment Platform

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched BIO-NIVESH in New Delhi to connect biotechnology startups with investors.
- ❖ The platform aims to increase private investment in biotechnology innovations ready for scale-up and commercialisation.
- ❖ The first edition brought together 20 biotechnology and deep-tech startups and around 50 investors.
- ❖ The Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund has an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore, with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) as a Second-Level Fund Manager for biotechnology and allied sectors.

- ❖ The initiative is planned as a recurring platform, with future editions proposed in different cities to strengthen regional biotechnology ecosystems.



Small Modular Reactors in Andaman and Nicobar



- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is assessing sites for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from September 4–8, 2026.
- ❖ The assessment covers all three districts of the Union Territory: North & Middle Andaman, South Andaman and Nicobar.
- ❖ The SMRs are being considered to meet rising electricity demand from the Great Nicobar Project, including the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), greenfield airport and other infrastructure.

- ❖ The islands currently depend mainly on diesel-based power generation, making reliable local electricity important for future development.
- ❖ Great Nicobar is strategically important because of its proximity to the Strait of Malacca and major maritime routes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

G20 Innovation Ministers Meeting 2026

- ❖ The G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting was held on 1–2 September 2026 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.
- ❖ G20 Ministers adopted the Innovation Ministerial Statement covering six areas, including pro-innovation policies, emerging technologies, skilled workforce, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Intellectual Property (IP), and industrial innovation.
- ❖ The meeting reached consensus on the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, AI Prosperity Objectives and AI Prosperity Compact.
- ❖ India discussed cooperation with the European Union, France, Germany, the African Union and the US in AI, digital technologies, semiconductors, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and research.
- ❖ The meeting highlighted cooperation in AI, semiconductors, robotics, Digital Public Infrastructure and other emerging technologies.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

UN Climate Week in Azerbaijan

- ❖ The fourth United Nations Climate Week opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, ahead of COP31.
- ❖ The meeting is being held from 7–11 September 2026 to discuss climate action, finance, adaptation and transparency.

- ❖ Discussions focus on the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including reporting on emissions, adaptation and climate support.
- ❖ COP29 (Azerbaijan), COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Türkiye) presidencies are participating in the dialogue.
- ❖ Key issues include carbon markets, just transition, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation and climate finance.
- ❖ Baku Climate Action Week 2026 is being held alongside the UN Climate Week, bringing together investors, businesses and civil society groups.

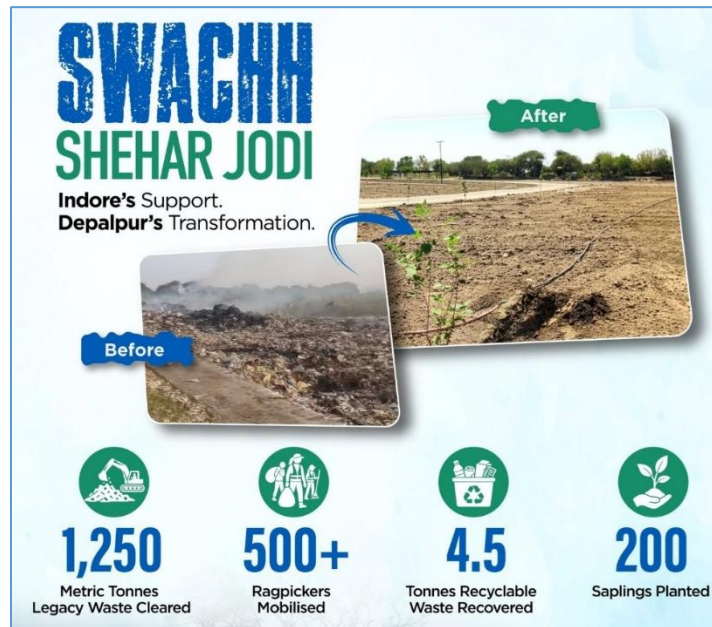


STATE NEWS

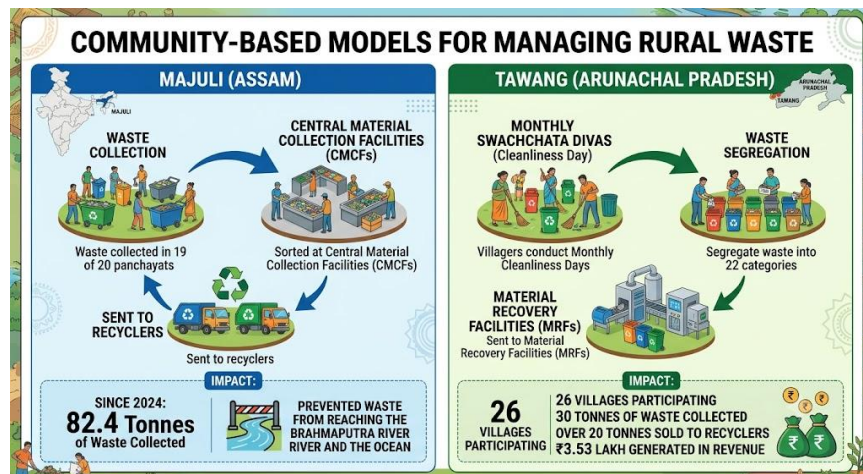
Zero Legacy Waste - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Depalpur in Madhya Pradesh became the first city under the Swachh Shehar Jodi initiative to achieve Zero Legacy Waste by treating 1,250 metric tonnes of old waste.
- ❖ The initiative was carried out under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) with support from Indore Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ Depalpur achieved 100% door-to-door waste collection with segregation into four categories.

- ❖ About 4.5 tonnes of plastic, metal and glass were recovered and sent to authorised recyclers.
- ❖ About 50–60 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) were sent to the NEPRA plant in Indore for use in cement factories.
- ❖ More than 500 ragpickers from Indore participated in the waste-remediation process.



Rural Waste Management



- ❖ Majuli (Assam) and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) have developed community-based models for managing rural waste.
- ❖ In Majuli, waste is collected in 19 of 20 panchayats, sorted at Central Material Collection Facilities (CMCFs) and sent to recyclers.

- ❖ Since 2024, Majuli has collected 82.4 tonnes of waste, preventing it from reaching the Brahmaputra and the ocean.
- ❖ In Tawang, villagers conduct monthly Swachchata Divas (Cleanliness Day) and segregate waste into 22 categories before sending it to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- ❖ 26 villages have collected 30 tonnes of waste, with over 20 tonnes sold to recyclers, generating ₹3.53 lakh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day 2026 - September 08

- ❖ The 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day will be marked in 2026, with the global celebration hosted in Mexico.
- ❖ UNESCO proclaimed International Literacy Day in 1966 during its 14th General Conference, following the 1965 Tehran conference on eradicating illiteracy.
- ❖ The first observance was held in 1967, while the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the observance the same year.
- ❖ UNESCO's International Literacy Prizes include the King Sejong Literacy Prizes and Confucius Prizes for Literacy, with six awards presented annually.
- ❖ In India, ULLAS promotes adult literacy along with digital literacy, financial literacy, life skills and lifelong learning.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity".

