



September - 29

## TNPSC BITS

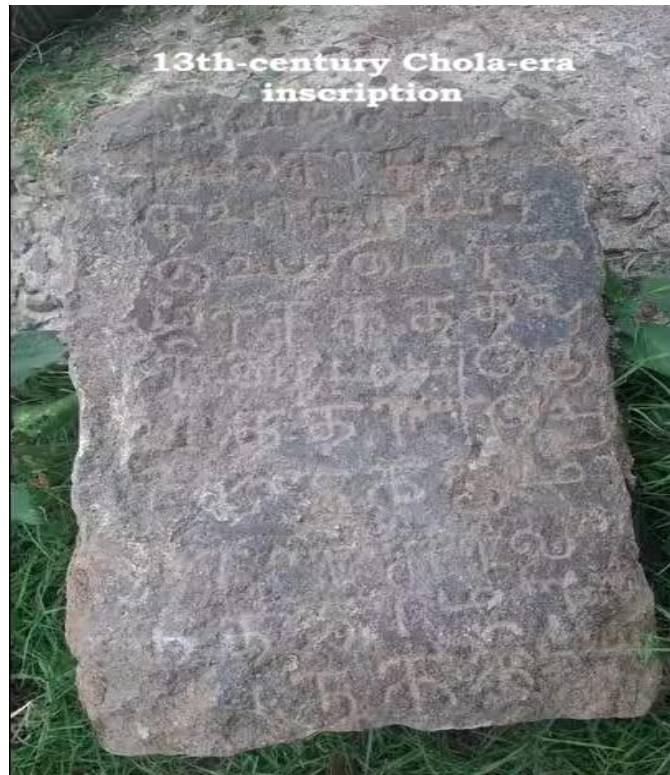
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi researchers developed India's first working indigenous micro-GPU (Graphics Processing Unit), which is used to process images and graphics.
- ❖ DRDO signed its first high-value deep-tech project agreement under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme with Rajasthan-based start-up Zero mK India Private Limited.
- ❖ The second edition of Tarang Shakti, a multinational air exercise of the Indian Air Force (IAF), is being held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, with eight countries—Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States (USA)—participating with air assets.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is establishing an Advanced Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur, Assam, under Project NETRA to strengthen India's Space Situational Awareness (SSA).
- ❖ Mizoram farmer ZT Lalrithangi, also known as Pi Mari-i, has been selected for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 100 Women Heroes in Agri food Systems and Rural Development Award.
- ❖ The Indian Navy's INS Trishul arrived at Toulon, France, to participate in the 24th edition of Exercise VARUNA, an annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
- ❖ India and the Netherlands signed two Tripartite Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during the 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 in New Delhi to advance the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat.
  - The Kalpasar Project aims to create a freshwater reservoir using runoff from the Sabarmati, Mahi and Dhadhar rivers, along with water from the Narmada River.
- ❖ World Car Free Day is observed annually on 22 September to promote travel without private cars and encourage cleaner and safer transport.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Chola-Era Inscription at Medavakkam

- ❖ A rare 13th-century Chola-era inscription was found during desilting of the Medavakkam tank, Chennai, recording the construction of a sluice in 1268 CE for irrigation.

- ❖ The sluice was built during the 20th regnal year of Telugu Chola king Sri Vijaya Kanda Gopalan.
- ❖ The inscription shows the existence of an ancient water-management system in the region.
- ❖ Monavakkam, mentioned in the inscription, is the present-day Medavakkam.
- ❖ Ancient rulers including the Pallavas, Cholas and Vijayanagara kings developed many lakes in Thondai Mandalam, present-day northern Tamil Nadu.



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition**

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition in New Delhi on 25 September 2026, after the team climbed 20 previously unclimbed peaks above 6,000 metres in Ladakh in 23 days.
- ❖ The expedition was carried out by 20 climbers from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), based in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The team was led by Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal, Director of NIMAS.

- ❖ The peaks were located in the Chamser-Lungser, Gyama Nala and Chokula areas of the Ladakh Range.
- ❖ NIMAS functions under the Ministry of Defence and conducts mountaineering and adventure training.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### FDI Inflow in India 2026

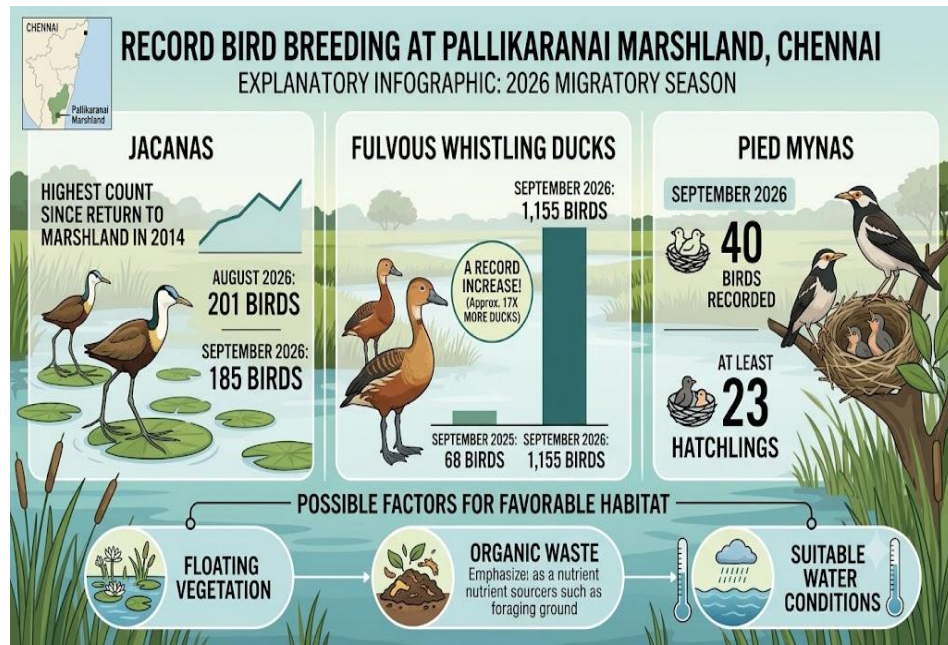


- ❖ India recorded its highest-ever annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of USD 94.53 billion in FY 2025–26, while cumulative inflows from FY 2014–15 to FY 2025–26 reached USD 843 billion.

- ❖ Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes attracted ₹2.40 lakh crore investment, ₹23.8 lakh crore in production/sales and ₹15.2 lakh crore in exports.
- ❖ PLI schemes generated over 14.6 lakh direct and indirect jobs and benefited sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and Information Technology (IT) hardware.
- ❖ Make in India marked its 12th anniversary on 25 September 2026, with reforms aimed at boosting investment and manufacturing.
- ❖ More than 470 crore orders have been placed through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Pallikaranai Bird Breeding Record



- ❖ Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai recorded the highest-ever breeding numbers of several non-native birds during the 2026 migratory season.
- ❖ Jacanas increased to 201 in August and 185 in September, the highest count since their return to the marshland in 2014.
- ❖ Fulvous whistling ducks reached a record 1,155 in September, compared with 68 in September 2025.
- ❖ Pied mynas were also recorded, with 40 birds and at least 23 hatchlings in September.

- ❖ Floating vegetation, organic waste and suitable water conditions may have created a favourable habitat for these birds.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### WEF Tourism Index 2026

- ❖ India ranked 31st in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2026, moving up nine places from 39th in 2024.
- ❖ The TTDI 2026 assessed 110 economies in collaboration with Zurich Insurance Group.
- ❖ Japan ranked first, followed by the United States, Spain, Australia and France.
- ❖ India's improvement was linked to cost-competitive travel, cultural resources, tourism infrastructure and business travel facilities.
- ❖ The index measures conditions supporting sustainable and resilient tourism development, not just tourist arrivals or spending.

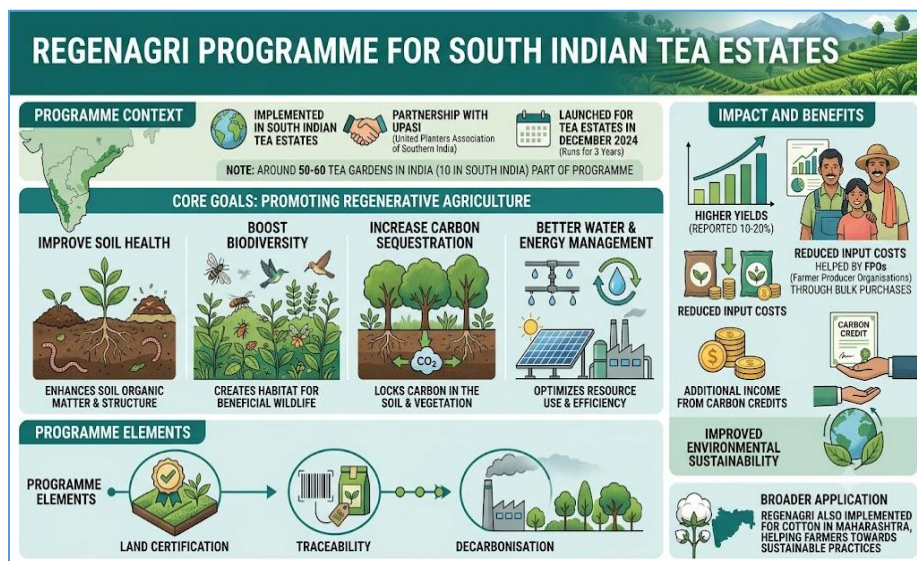


## STATE NEWS

### Regenagri Programme for South Indian Tea Estates

- ❖ The Regenagri programme will be implemented in South Indian tea estates to promote regenerative agriculture and improve environmental sustainability.
- ❖ Around 50–60 tea gardens in India, including 10 in South India, are part of the programme; it is being implemented with the United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI).
- ❖ Launched for tea estates in December 2024, the programme generally runs for three years.

- ❖ It promotes soil health, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and better water and energy management.
- ❖ Regenagri-certified farmers have reported 10–20% higher yields, while Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) help reduce input costs through bulk purchases.
- ❖ The programme includes land certification, traceability and decarbonisation, with carbon credits providing additional income to farmers.
- ❖ Regenagri is also being implemented for cotton in Maharashtra, where it helps farmers move towards more sustainable farming practices.



## AFSPA Extension 2026

- ❖ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) has been extended for another six months from 1 October 2026 in specified areas of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ In Manipur, AFSPA continues across the State except in 13 police station jurisdictions in five Valley districts.
- ❖ In Nagaland, it continues in 9 districts and areas under 21 police stations in 5 other districts.
- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh, it covers Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts and specified areas of Namsai district.
- ❖ Under Section 3, AFSPA allows armed forces, subject to the Act, to arrest without warrant, search premises without warrant and use force in specified circumstances.
- ❖ Both Central and State governments can declare an area as a “disturbed area” under Section 3.

- ❖ AFSPA was enacted in 1958 to deal with insurgency and serious internal security problems; it has been withdrawn from some Northeast areas, including Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018).



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **National Service Scheme Day 2026 – September 24**



- ❖ The day aims to mark the establishment of the NSS in India.

- ❖ The National Service Scheme (NSS) was launched on 24 September 1969 by Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Union Education Minister.
- ❖ Its launch coincided with the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1969).
- ❖ The NSS works under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), and its motto is “Not Me But You.”
- ❖ The scheme helps students develop teamwork, leadership and social responsibility through community service.

### **CSIR Foundation Day 2026 - September 26**



- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) completed 85 years in 2026.
- ❖ CSIR was established on 26 September 1942 as an autonomous body for scientific and industrial research in India.
- ❖ It functions as a nationwide research network with 37 national laboratories working in areas such as aerospace, chemicals, biotechnology, environment and ocean science.
- ❖ CSIR headquarters is at Anusandhan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ CSIR was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- ❖ Its research supports healthcare, energy, agriculture, environment, materials, aerospace and emerging technologies.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Bat Evolution Study

- ❖ A large study of bat genomes and fossils found that bats likely originated in Europe about 65 million years ago, during the late Palaeocene.
- ❖ The study involved 137 scientists from 64 countries under the Bat1K consortium and analysed 103 bat species from all 21 living bat families.
- ❖ Scientists concluded that bats spread from Europe to Africa, and then to Asia, the Americas and Australia, but not Antarctica.
- ❖ Flight and echolocation developed near the beginning of bat evolution, helping bats spread widely across the world.
- ❖ Bats play important ecological roles such as pollinating plants, controlling insect pests and dispersing seeds.

