



**August - 03**

## **TNPSC BITS**







- ❖ Goa Shipyard Limited has launched “ICGS Atal”, the sixth of eight indigenously designed Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ DRDO successfully conducted two consecutive flight tests of the indigenously developed Pralay missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- ❖ Indian Army’s ‘Operation Shiv Shakti’ in J&K’s Poonch neutralized two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants.
- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced August 7 will be celebrated annually as “Sustainable Agriculture Day” to mark the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a comprehensive river revival scheme aimed at rejuvenating the state's disappearing, polluted, and seasonal rivers.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Tamil Nadu’s engine of progress - education for all**

- ❖ There are many reasons for Tamil Nadu’s tremendous economic and social progress over the last century.
- ❖ If social justice is our ideology, then education is its most effective instrument to carry it forward.
- ❖ Education for all, not just those who can afford it or have the “merit” for it, is an equaliser and an enabler.
- ❖ It is the foundation upon which we continue to build an equitable Tamil society.
- ❖ In the year 1920, a school in Thousand Lights area under the then Municipal Corporation of Madras became the first in India to serve mid-day meals to its students.
- ❖ The initiative was approved by the then Madras Corporation Council and inspired by Justice Party leader P. Theagaraya Chetty.
- ❖ This idea has evolved into one of the largest and most effective school meal programmes in the world.
- ❖ It expanded up with the Breakfast Scheme which was launched in 2022 by this government.

- ❖ It is one of many reforms that illustrate how Tamil Nadu has used its education policy not just to improve learning outcomes, but to bring about equality in society.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education stands at 47%, while the national average is 28.4%.
- ❖ Among women, Tamil Nadu's GER is 47.3%, against the national figure of 28.5%.
- ❖ In the year 1921, the Justice Party passed the historic Government Order (GO), which came to be known as the Communal GO.
- ❖ It ensured access to education for children from all communities, particularly the marginalised.

102 YEARS OF STUDENT WELFARE, 106 YEARS OF DRAVIDIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE					
					
<b>1920</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2022</b>
First mid-day meal in India, initiated by the Justice Party	Statewide expansion of mid-day meals	Launched the <b>Sathunavu (Nutrition) Meal Scheme</b>	Introduced eggs* to the mid-day meal scheme	Started the Variety Meal Scheme with weekly menus	Breakfast Scheme launched for govt school students
Foundation of student welfare and social justice	Inspired by Perivar and the Dravidian movement	A major step toward child nutrition	Enhanced protein intake for children	Improved meal diversity	Ensuring no child starts the day hungry
Tamil Nadu's consistent investment in student nutrition and social justice is the reason behind its educational and human development leadership.					

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 65,000 crore digital payments

- ❖ India recorded over 65,000 crore digital payment transactions totalling ₹12,000 trillion from fiscal years 2019 to 2025.

- ❖ Around 4.77 crore digital payment touchpoints have been deployed through the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) since 2021.
- ❖ The PIDF was established by RBI to boost digital payment infrastructure in small towns, remote regions and north-eastern states.



### **Premachandran - empaneled member**



- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla nominates Premachandran as empanelled member to preside over House proceedings.
- ❖ He has been nominated under Section 9 in Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ According to the rule, the Speaker shall nominate from amongst the members a panel of not more than 10 Chairpersons.

- ❖ Anyone of them whom may preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker when so requested by the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, by the Deputy Speaker.
- ❖ Anyone of them may preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### New York Declaration for Palestine

- ▶ At a high-level UN conference on Palestine in **New York**, co-hosted by **Saudi Arabia and France**, participating nations adopted the landmark **"New York Declaration"** outlining steps toward a resolution of the Question of Palestine.



- ❖ The United Nations conference in New York launched the New York Declaration calling for an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through a two-state solution.
- ❖ It urged the immediate end of the Gaza war and called for the full withdrawal of Israeli forces and governance transfer to the Palestinian Authority under one unified rule.
- ❖ The declaration has demanded that Gaza be unified with the West Bank with no occupation siege or displacement and that both states live in peace within secure 1967-based borders.
- ❖ It called for financial and political support to the Palestinian Authority to carry out reforms, conduct elections and assume full control over all occupied territories.
- ❖ Israel was asked to make a public commitment to the two-state solution.



- ❖ The declaration endorsed the deployment of a temporary United Nations-led international force to stabilize Gaza and protect civilians after the ceasefire implementation.

### **UK recognition of Palestinian state**

- ❖ The United Kingdom will recognise the State of Palestine by September during the UNGA unless Israel takes concrete steps in Gaza.
- ❖ Conditions include a ceasefire, humanitarian aid access, halting annexation in the West Bank, and commitment to a long-term peace process.
- ❖ The move supports the two-state solution and aims to ensure lasting regional stability.
- ❖ The announcement follows similar recognition from France, Spain, Ireland, and Norway.
- ❖ Israel has opposed the move and claimed it undermines ongoing peace efforts.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **India's first AI-ready cloud computer**

- ❖ Reliance Jio unveiled JioPC, India's first AI-ready cloud-based virtual desktop platform designed for flexible computing.
- ❖ It offers on-demand upgrades with a subscription-based model and provides AI tools for learning work and daily tasks.

- ❖ JioPC has partnered with Adobe to offer free access to Adobe Express along with key AI tools suitable for students, professionals and businesses.



### CRIB blood group

### Historic Discovery:

New Rare Blood Group Found in Bengaluru, India!

- 1 A 38-year-old woman from Karnataka baffled doctors; her O+ blood matched none.
- 2 10 months of global research revealed a never-seen-before Antigen
- 3 Named CRIB = Cromer + India + Bangalore, now part of world Blood Group Systems.
- 4 Recognized at ISBT 2025, Milan – a Medical first from India.
- 5 Adds to India's legacy of rare Blood findings: Rh null, In B negative, and more.

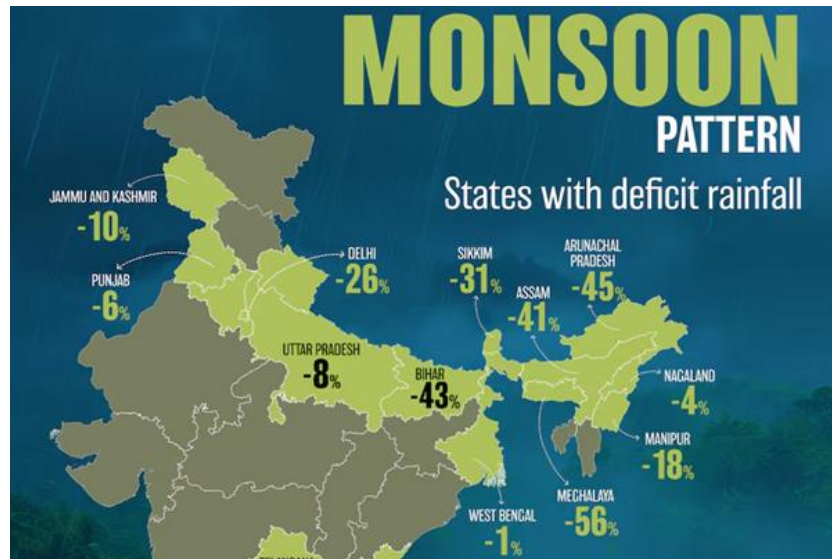
- ❖ A 38-year-old woman from Kolar near Bengaluru is the first known person with the ultra-rare CRIB blood group.
- ❖ CRIB stands for Chromosome Region Identified as Blood group and is part of the Indian Rare Antigen (INRA) system.
- ❖ This new blood group lacks a common antigen, making transfusions extremely complex and only compatible with CRIB-negative blood.
- ❖ The CRIB plays a crucial role in preventing Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn (HDFN) during pregnancy.

- ❖ Fewer than 10 cases of CRIB blood group are known worldwide, marking it the rarest blood group to date.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Rainfall deficit in Meghalaya

- ❖ In the 2025 Southwest Monsoon (SWM) season, Meghalaya had a rainfall deficit of 56%.
- ❖ It received just 690.7 mm of rain instead of the normal 1,555.4 mm.
- ❖ Meghalaya now gets less rain than Jharkhand, which had 53% more rain than usual.
- ❖ Research shows that dry areas in Meghalaya are growing, especially in the west, center, and north.



### Sundarbans Tiger Reserve expansion

- ❖ A proposal to expand the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) by 1,100 square kilometers has been submitted to MoEF&CC.
- ❖ The expansion will increase the reserve's total area to 3,629.57 square kilometers, making it the second-largest tiger reserve in India.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has already given technical approval for the expansion.
- ❖ The new area will include the Raidighi, Matla, and Ramganga forest ranges in the South 24-Parganas district.

- ❖ The current tiger population is estimated at 101, with 80 inside the STR and 21 in the adjoining forests.



### Golden Jackals in Kerala





- ❖ Kerala's Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus naria*) population is estimated between 20,000 and 30,000.
- ❖ The study covered nearly 900 villages with over 2,200 participants recording 5,000 sightings across the state.
- ❖ Only 2 percent of sightings were in protected forest areas, while most were in lowlands below 200 meters in elevation.
- ❖ Preferred habitats include the coconut groves (24 percent), rural settlements (10 percent), paddy fields (8 percent), rubber plantations (6 percent) and urban areas (5.6 percent).
- ❖ The Sightings are very frequent in Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram but sparse in the Western Ghats, Alappuzha coast and Attappadi due to unsuitable habitat.
- ❖ Isolated populations are exist in Munnar and Eravikulam National Park, showing some adaptation to high-altitude areas.

## STATES' NEWS

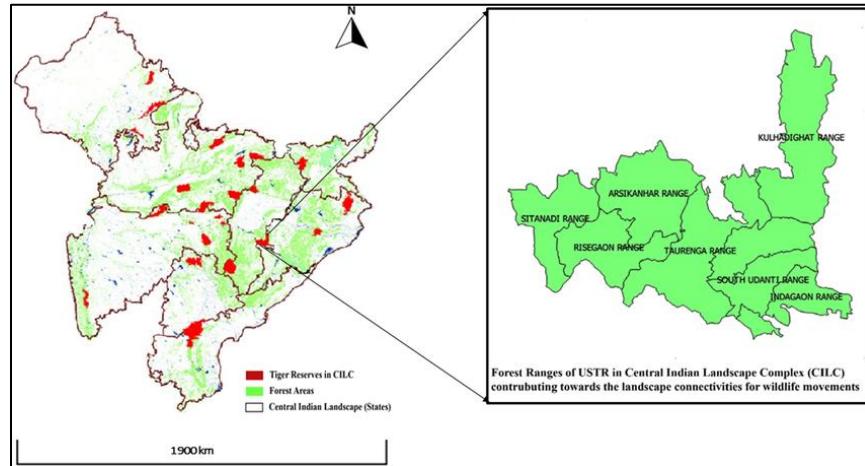
### India's first AI-based road safety project



- ❖ The Centre has approved Uttar Pradesh's Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data Analytics pilot project to improve road safety.
- ❖ The project, implemented at zero cost by ITI Limited and mLogica.
- ❖ It aims to reduce accidents using multi-source data, including vehicle telematics and weather feeds.
- ❖ It will enhance the enforcement, faceless licensing, permits, revenue systems, e-challan operations, and the 'Vahan Sarathi' vehicle registry.

- ❖ The project complies fully with the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, with the continuous audits on legal compliance and data privacy.

### **Karlajhar's Community Fire Management**

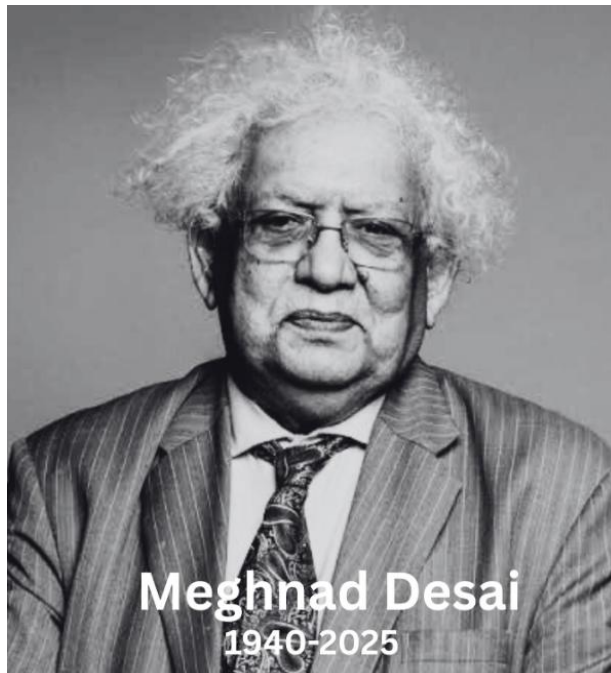


- ❖ Karlajhar village in Gariaband district, Chhattisgarh, located within the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, effectively controlled multiple forest fires in March 2025.
- ❖ Four to five fire incidents have occurred in Karlajhar this year, all of which were managed swiftly by villagers with minimal damage.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh recorded 19,003 fire incidents in 2025.
- ❖ It is the highest in four years, with 789 in Gariaband district and 866 in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ Karlajhar received Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) under Section 5 of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2023 after a decade-long struggle.
- ❖ Section 5 of the FRA Act empowers the Gram Sabhas (village councils) to manage forest resources, prevent destructive practices, and protect forest-dwelling tribal habitats.
- ❖ The Community Forest Resource Management Committee (CFRMC), formed in 2022, enforces protection through the Thengapalli patrol system with 10 teams of 5 members each.
- ❖ Each Thengapalli team patrols for three days monthly to monitor illegal activities and report to the Gram Sabha.

### **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

## **Meghnad Desai**

- ❖ Meghnad Desai of Gujarat, eminent economist, passed away recently.
- ❖ He has authored influential works including Marxian Economic Theory (1973), Applied Econometrics (1976), Marx's Revenge (2002), and Who Wrote the Bhagavad Gita? (2014).
- ❖ He was the First Indian-origin peer from the Labour Party, breaking new ground in the UK's political and social landscape.
- ❖ Awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2008 by the India, in recognition of his lifelong contributions to academia.



## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

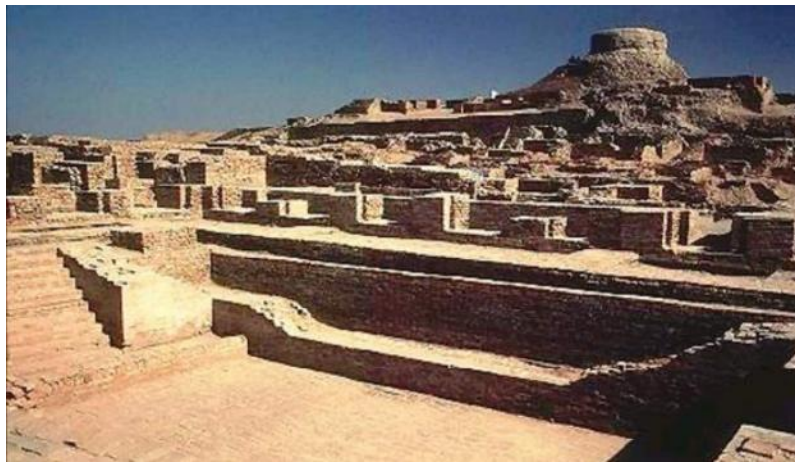
### **400-mile fossil volcano chain**

- ❖ A 400-mile (700 km) long fossilized volcanic arc formed 800 million years ago was found under South China's Yangtze Block.
- ❖ Formed during Rodinia's breakup, it resulted from flat-slab subduction, causing magma to rise and solidify deep below.
- ❖ Airborne magnetic sensing and boreholes up to 6 km deep revealed volcanic rocks with arc-related geochemistry.
- ❖ Uranium-lead dating confirmed formation between 770 and 820 million years ago in the early Neoproterozoic era.

- ❖ The unusually wide arc (up to 50 km) reshapes the understanding of the early continental crust evolution.



### **Ratadiya Ri Dheri**



- ❖ A new Harappan settlement was found at Ratadiya Ri Dheri in Jaisalmer district, marking the first Indus Valley site in Rajasthan's desert region.
- ❖ It is located 60 km from Ramgarh and 17 km from Pakistan's Sadewala.
- ❖ This site connects northern Rajasthan with Gujarat's ancient civilizations.
- ❖ The discovery includes red pottery, terracotta objects, stone tools, and kiln bricks similar to those found at Mohenjo-daro and Kanmer.
- ❖ The Archaeologists date the site to the mature urban phase of the Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE), identifying it as a rural Harappan settlement.
- ❖ Evidence of chert blades from Rohri in Pakistan indicates long-distance trade and cultural links within the Harappan network.



## Flash flood hotspots across India



- ❖ A new study has identified flash flood-prone areas mainly in the Himalayas, the West Coast and Central India.
- ❖ The Extremely vulnerable sub-basins are located in the Brahmaputra, Narmada, Tapi, Mahanadi, Brahmani and West Coast River basins.
- ❖ High-risk areas are also found in parts of the Godavari, Ganga, Mahi and Indus River basins.
- ❖ The Flash floods usually occur within four to six hours of intense rainfall and are often caused by cloudbursts in hilly regions.
- ❖ The Main causes include saturated soil, sudden release of water from dams and fast surface runoff due to urban development.
- ❖ The Flash Flood Guidance System, which has been operational since 2020, much provides early warnings up to twenty-four hours in advance.

## The naval prowess of Rajendra Chola I

- ❖ Naval supremacy drove the Chola empire to the height of glory.
- ❖ Under the dynamic leadership of Rajendra Chola I, the Chola navy reached the zenith of its power.
- ❖ He ascended the throne in 1012 CE
- ❖ With nearly the entire southern peninsula of India under their dominion, the Cholas commanded an unobstructed access to the seas.
- ❖ By that they turned into a theatre of unprecedented political expansion.



- ❖ Rajendra's reign marked the most assertive phase of Chola overseas ambition.
- ❖ The naval campaigns launched during this period led to the annexation of Sri Lanka and an audacious expedition across the Bay of Bengal to the distant shores of the Malay Peninsula.
- ❖ The Victory over Malay Peninsula earned Rajendra the title Kadaram Kondan (the Conqueror of Kadaram).
- ❖ The existence of a well-organised fleet of ships and boats of various grades in Chola's navy served both commercial and military purposes.
- ❖ K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, in his book *The Cōlas*, had offered a detailed account of Rajendra's naval campaigns.
- ❖ It was particularly those targeting Eelamandalam (Sri Lanka) and Kadaram, the strategic stronghold in the Kingdom of Srivijaya.
- ❖ In 1017 CE, Rajendra launched a decisive campaign against Sri Lanka.
- ❖ This was the fifth year of his reign.
- ❖ And it marked the culmination of the efforts initiated by his father, Raja Raja Chola I.
- ❖ The Chola conquest coincided with the thirty-sixth regnal year of the Sinhalese ruler Mahinda V.
- ❖ It was according to inscriptions and the Ceylonese chronicle *Mahavamsa*.
- ❖ It was dated to 1017 CE.
- ❖ The Chola involvement in Sri Lanka stretched back to the reign of Parantaka Chola I, who ruled from 907 to 955 CE.
- ❖ However, it was Raja Raja who annexed the northern parts of the island.
- ❖ Though some territories remained under local Sinhalese control, the Chola grip steadily tightened.
- ❖ Rajendra's offensive went further than that of his father.
- ❖ His forces captured Mahinda V and seized the royal regalia, including the crown.
- ❖ His control over the island was comprehensive enough to convert it into a full-fledged Chola province.
- ❖ Inscriptions bearing the title, *tirumanni valara*, attributed to Rajendra, were also found near Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Temples built in the Tamil Chola architectural style, dedicated to deities such as Shiva and Vishnu, further underscored Chola influence.
- ❖ Around 1029 CE, 12 years after the invasion, a fresh wave of unrest erupted.
- ❖ Kassapa, son of Mahinda V, who had been raised in secrecy, led a very successful rebellion.



- ❖ After six months of conflict, he regained control and ruled as Vikkamabahu I, re-establishing Sinhalese sovereignty.
- ❖ Rajendra's imperial vision did not stop with Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In 1025 CE, soon after his campaign to the Ganges, he turned his gaze eastward towards the thriving maritime Kingdom of Srivijaya.
- ❖ This Southeast Asian empire controlled vital sea lanes connecting India to China and ruled over territories that included the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java.
- ❖ Initially, relations between the Cholas and Srivijaya were cordial.
- ❖ Raja Raja Chola had granted some land in Nagapattinam to Mara Vijayottunga Varman of the Shailendra dynasty for the construction of the Chudamani Vihara.
- ❖ Diplomatic missions moved regularly between the two kingdoms and China.
- ❖ Srivijaya sent envoys in 1003 and 1008 CE, while the Cholas reciprocated the gesture in 1015, 1033, and 1077 CE.
- ❖ Inscriptions on the Tiruvalangadu copper plates merely mentioned the conquest of Kadaram.
- ❖ While a Tamil prasasti (an inscription in praise of a ruler) provides some more details.
- ❖ One view attribute the conflict to interference by Srivijaya in Chola maritime trade.
- ❖ While another sees it as part of Rajendra's broader ambition to achieve maritime supremacy and secure overseas prestige.
- ❖ Rajendra's Southeast Asia campaign was swift and decisive.
- ❖ The Chola ships had crossed the Bay of Bengal and struck at the heart of Srivijayan power.
- ❖ Kadaram was captured and Sangrama Vijayottungavarman, successor to Mara Vijayottungavarman, was taken prisoner.
- ❖ While the campaign had projected Chola's might across the seas, there was no immediate attempt to establish direct rule over the conquered territories.
- ❖ Rajendra's successor, Virarajendra I, claimed to have reconquered Kadaram and restored its ruler, indicating that earlier gains were only temporary.
- ❖ A Tamil inscription from Sumatra, dated to 1088 CE, provides further evidence of continued Chola activity in the region.
- ❖ It was at least in terms of commerce.
- ❖ Beyond the military conquests, these expeditions highlighted the Chola empire's broader diplomatic reach.

- ❖ Inscriptions in the Karandai copper plates indicated that the King of Kambhoja (the Kingdom of Angkor ruled by Suryavarman I) had solicited the friendship of Rajendra by sending him a victorious war-chariot with which he had defeated hostile armies.
- ❖ Rajendra's naval expeditions marked a bold chapter in history.
- ❖ They extended both political and cultural reach of the Chola empire beyond the Indian subcontinent.

