



August - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hariyali Teej festival 2025 marks the reunion of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and is widely celebrated across the northern and the western India, especially in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

'Nalam Kaakkum Stalin scheme

உங்கள் குடும்பத்தின் நலன் அரசின் பொறுப்பு!

- ▶ நலம் காக்கும் ஸ்டாலின் திட்டத்தை ஆகஸ்ட் 2ஆம் தேதி சென்னையில் தொடங்கி வைக்கிறேன். அனைத்து மாவட்டங்களிலும் மக்கள் பிரதிநிதிகள் இந்த முகாம்களில் கலந்துகொள்ள வேண்டுகிறேன்.
- ▶ தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் 1,256 முகாம்கள் அமைக்கப்படவுள்ளன... வாரந்தோறும் சனிக்கிழமைகளில்!
- ▶ முகாம்களிலேயே பரிசோதனை முடிவுகள் SMS வாயிலாகப் பயனாளிகளுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கப்படும்.
- ▶ Blood Test, ECG, X-Ray, USG, மாற்பகப் புற்றுநோய் உள்ளிட்ட அனைத்துப் பரிசோதனை முடிவுகளை உள்ளடக்கிய மருத்துவக் கோப்புகளும் (Folders) வழங்கப்படும்.
- ▶ உங்கள் குடும்பத்தின் நலன் அரசின் பொறுப்பு!

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on August 2, 2025 inaugurated medical camps across all 38 districts in the State.
- ❖ It was organised under the 'Nalam Kaakkum Stalin scheme.
- ❖ He unveiled this at the inaugural event organised by the Health Department at the Saint Bede's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School complex in Santhome, Chennai.
- ❖ It was aimed at taking healthcare to people's doorsteps.
- ❖ As part of the programme, 1,256 camps are being conducted.
- ❖ And priority is given to rural areas.
- ❖ These are the areas where special medical facilities are fewer, and places with a higher Scheduled Caste population.
- ❖ The camps will prioritise people from economically weaker sections, those with diabetes and blood pressure, heart patients, lactating mothers, and pregnant women, among others.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu had been awarded the best State for Organ Donation by the Union government for 2024.

Mini TIDEL Park in Tiruvannamalai

- ❖ The Chief Minister has virtually laid the foundation for a Mini TIDEL Park in Tiruvannamalai to be built at ₹37 crore.
- ❖ Mini TIDEL Parks are aimed at boosting IT growth in Tier II and III cities across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The parks in Salem, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi and Villupuram were inaugurated last year, while new ones are underway in Karaikudi, Tiruppur and Vellore.



School of Semiconductor Initiative

- ❖ The School of Semiconductor Initiative was launched by the Tamil Nadu government in partnership with IIT-Madras.
- ❖ It aims to build a skilled workforce for the semiconductor sector and boost the research and startup incubation.
- ❖ A ₹100 crore grant will support a new centre with India's first in situ fab unit at Central Polytechnic Campus in Chennai.
- ❖ The initiative promotes local manufacturing prototyping and advanced R&D for national and global semiconductor needs.



Backed by ₹100 crore, Govt of Tamil Nadu and IIT Madras, to launch India's first in situ fab unit, training 4,500 in semiconductor and tech innovation.

Verkalai Thedi thittam



- ❖ Chief Minister flagged off the fourth phase of the 'Verkalai Thedi' cultural tour in Chennai.
- ❖ Under this initiative, launched in 2023 at a Tamil cultural event in Singapore, diaspora Tamil youth are selected annually and brought to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The goal is to strengthen their connection with Tamil heritage through the exchange of traditions and immersive learning.
- ❖ This year, 99 diaspora Tamil youth from 14 countries will tour the historical and cultural sites across Tamil Nadu from August 1 to 15.

- ❖ Participants will explore Tamil history, lifestyle, arts, architecture, water systems, and clothing, and interact with scholars and experts.
- ❖ After the tour, they will return as cultural ambassadors to promote Tamil identity and pride in their respective countries.

NATIONAL NEWS

Compensatory afforestation target

ABOUT CAMPA FUND

➤ The Campa fund is a national-level corpus fund where the compensation amount collected from user agencies like industries when forestland is diverted for non-forest purposes is deposited



➤ Fund is to be utilized for compensatory afforestation activities, protection of forests, forest-related infrastructure development, assisted natural regeneration of forests, etc.

- ❖ The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), appointed by the Supreme Court, filed a report on the management of Compensatory Afforestation Funds.
- ❖ India achieved 85 per cent of its compensatory afforestation target between 2019 and 2024 by planting 1,78,261 hectares against a target of 2,09,297 hectares.
- ❖ There are misuse and governance lapses in the handling of funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
- ❖ The States like Gujarat, Chandigarh, Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh fully achieved their targets.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has planted 21,746.82 hectares against its target of 21,107.68 hectares.
- ❖ Karnataka covered 2,761.26 hectares against its target of 2,775.12 hectares.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 96.6 per cent by planting 20,719.46 hectares against a target of 21,478.03 hectares.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has reached 96.4 per cent by planting 5,877.16 hectares against 6,096.7 hectares.
- ❖ Meghalaya has achieved only 22.3 per cent with 114.56 hectares out of 514.76 hectares.

- ❖ Manipur planted 666.94 hectares against a target of 1,759.84 hectares, achieving 37.9 per cent.
- ❖ Kerala achieved 39.7 per cent by planting 171.80 hectares out of 433.06 hectares.
- ❖ West Bengal has planted 748.25 hectares against 1,911.74 hectares, reaching 39.2 per cent.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu achieved 32.3 per cent by planting 84.76 hectares against a target of 262.39 hectares.
- ❖ National CAMPA approved ₹38,516 crore for state annual plans during 2019 to 2024.
- ❖ Of the total approved funds, states released ₹29,311 crore to forest departments and ₹26,001 crore was utilised.
- ❖ Only 67.5 per cent of the approved funds were spent across India.
- ❖ Fund utilisation varied in Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh used 100 per cent, 100 per cent and 97.8 per cent of the released funds, respectively.
- ❖ In contrast, Delhi used only 23 per cent of its CAMPA funds.

Relaunch of Sanchar Saathi App



SANCHAR SAATHI

EMPOWERING CITIZENS, ENHANCING SAFETY

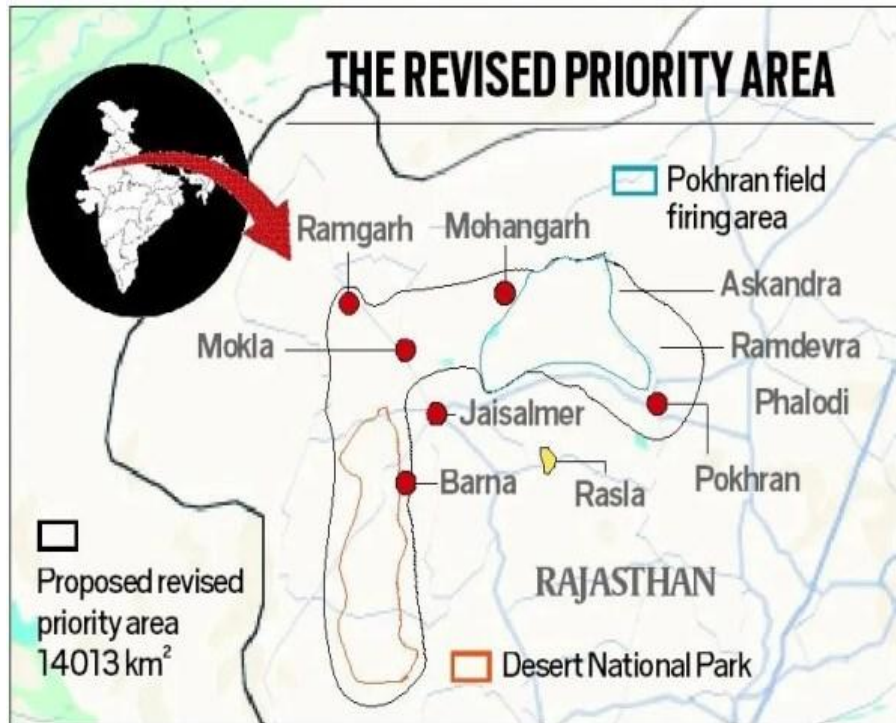
KEY FEATURES:

- **Lost/Stolen Mobile Recovery:** Report, block, and trace lost or stolen mobiles. Connected with over 15,000 police stations to assist in swift recovery.
- **Cyber Fraud Protection:** Report suspicious calls, SMS, or WhatsApp messages related to cybercrime, financial fraud, fake services, KYC updates, loan/job offers, and more.
- **Unauthorized Connections:** Check the number of mobile connections registered under your name and report unauthorized ones.
- **Know Your Mobile (KYM):** Verify the validity of devices before purchasing to ensure security.
- **Report Illegal Telecom Activity:** Report international calls using Indian numbers to combat illegal telecom setups. Call 1963 or 1800110420 to report.
- **Wireline ISP Details:** Check the details of Wireline ISPs by entering a PIN code, address, or ISP name.

- ❖ Centre has launched the Sanchar Saathi app in Hindi plus 21 regional languages.
- ❖ The app enables users to report suspicious communications, block or track lost/stolen phones, and verify unauthorised connections.

- ❖ Since its January launch, the app has been downloaded over 46 lakh times.
- ❖ The relaunch happened during a New Delhi meeting with key stakeholders to fight telecom cyber frauds.

Power Corridors in Rajasthan



- ❖ A Supreme Court panel recommended special power corridors in Rajasthan and Gujarat to protect the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB).
- ❖ The proposal balances renewable energy growth with bird conservation, as GIBs often die by crashing into overhead lines.
- ❖ Only about 150 GIBs remain in the wild due to hunting, habitat loss, poaching and low reproduction.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India warned that even 4 to 5 bird deaths yearly could cause extinction in 20 years.
- ❖ The committee has suggested undergrounding 80 km of lines in Rajasthan and rerouting risky stretches near bustard zones.
- ❖ Revised priority areas were marked as 14,013 sq km in Rajasthan and 740 sq km in Gujarat.
- ❖ A joint team will identify sensitive areas for undergrounding or insulating power lines to reduce bird deaths.



UPP Tollways v. Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation case

- ❖ The dispute arose from a concession agreement dated January 5, 2012, between UPP Tollways Private Limited (Pvt Ltd) and Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC).
- ❖ It is planned to develop the Umri-Pooph-Pratappur (UPP) Road on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that safe, well-maintained motorable roads are an essential part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Court emphasised the State's responsibility to develop and maintain roads under its control.
- ❖ UPP Tollways challenged the Madhya Pradesh High Court's quashing of arbitration proceedings initiated under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
- ❖ The Court has upheld the High Court's view that disputes under the agreement fall exclusively within the Madhya Pradesh Arbitration Tribunal constituted under the Madhya Pradesh Madhyastham Adhikaran Adhiniyam 1983 (1983 Act).
- ❖ The project cost was Rs 73.68 crore, but claims of over Rs 280 crore arose due to delays, redesigns and cost escalations.
- ❖ UPP Tollways initially invoked an arbitration through the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) under Clause 44.3.1 of the agreement.
- ❖ MPRDC challenged this, saying the dispute must be resolved only by the State's statutory Arbitration Tribunal.
- ❖ The Supreme Court rejected UPP Tollways' argument that, being a private party, it was not subject to writ jurisdiction when public law is involved.
- ❖ The Court ruled that the contracts for State Highways awarded by government-controlled entities involve public functions.
- ❖ Clause 44.3.1, providing arbitration under ICADR rules, was held inoperative due to the overriding statutory mandate.
- ❖ The concession agreement qualifies as a works contract under the 1983 Act, and monetary claims fall within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
- ❖ The UPP Tollways had withdrawn a prior reference before the Madhya Pradesh Arbitration Tribunal in 2022 without liberty to revive claims.
- ❖ Initiating parallel arbitration under the 1996 Act was held to be impermissible forum shopping, barred by election estoppel and constructive res judicata.
- ❖ The Court allowed UPP Tollways to apply for revival of the withdrawn reference within two weeks, with the Tribunal to decide within two weeks and if allowed, the case to be decided within four months.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Oil production in Pakistan



- ❖ US President Donald Trump announced cooperation with Pakistan to develop its large oil reserves despite Pakistan's limited history in oil production.
- ❖ Pakistan's proven crude oil reserves are estimated between 234 million and 353 million barrels.
- ❖ It is far less than India's 4.8 to 5 billion barrels of reserves.



- ❖ A 2015 US Energy Information Administration report has estimated Pakistan's technically recoverable shale oil at 9.1 billion barrels.
- ❖ But only a small portion is economically viable.
- ❖ Pakistan currently produces about 60 thousand barrels of oil per day compared to India's 580 thousand barrels.

ECONOMY NEWS

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act 2025

- ❖ The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act 2025 will come into force on August 1 to improve governance and protect depositors and investors.
- ❖ The Act enhances the audit quality in public sector banks and extends Director tenure in cooperative banks except for Chairperson and whole-time Directors.
- ❖ The "substantial interest" threshold is raised from 5 lakh rupees to 2 crore rupees, a limit unchanged since 1968.
- ❖ Director tenure in the cooperative banks is increased from 8 to 10 years, aligning with the 97th Constitutional Amendment.
- ❖ The Act includes 19 amendments across five legislations, including the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 and the Banking Regulation Act 1949.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

NISAR Satellite's Observation

- ❖ The NASA-Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite mission cost over 1.5 billion USD.

- ❖ NISAR carries two radars, L-band from NASA and S-band from ISRO, operating together to scan Earth's surface in detail.
- ❖ It will monitor land changes, ice sheets, wildfires, and more with a 12-meter dish from 747 km altitude every 12 days.
- ❖ It can detect vertical ground movements as small as 1 centimetre, helping predict disasters like earthquakes and landslides.
- ❖ ISRO contributed the satellite bus radar and launch services, marking a key Indo-US collaboration in space science.

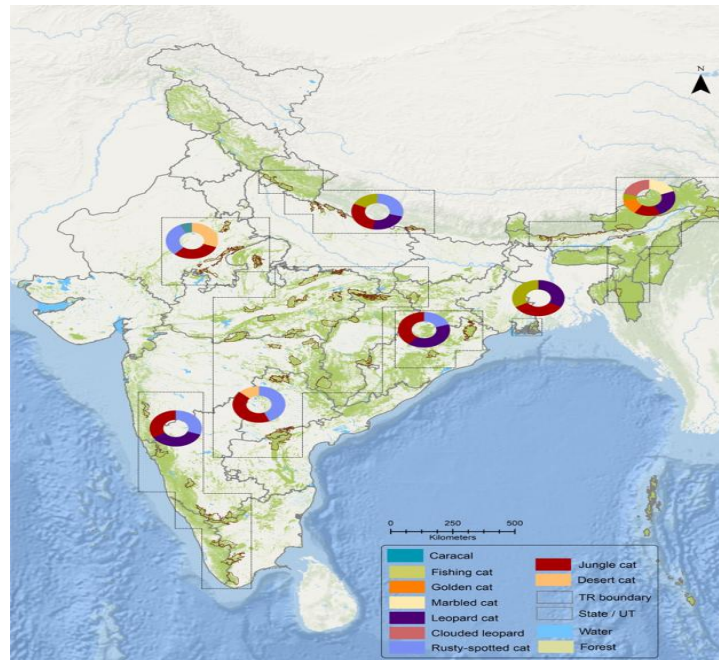


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Status of small cats in tiger landscapes

- ❖ The status of small cats in tiger landscapes of India was released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 29 July 2025, Global Tiger Day.
- ❖ Small cats are important for ecosystems but are often neglected in conservation planning.
- ❖ The report is based on camera trap data from the All-India Tiger Estimations of 2018 and 2022.
- ❖ Jungle cat is the most widespread species, occupying 96,275 km² across varied habitats.
- ❖ Rusty-spotted cat occupies 70,075 km², mostly in mixed deciduous forests.
- ❖ The leopard cat is found in 32,800 km², mainly in moist forests of the Himalayas, Northeast, Sundarbans, Western Ghats and Similipal.

- ❖ The desert cat is limited to 12,500 km² in semi-arid and dry deciduous forests of western and central India.
- ❖ The fishing cat occupies 7,575 km², closely tied to the wetlands in the Terai, Northeast and mangroves.
- ❖ The clouded leopard is found in 3,250 km², restricted to the dense forests of the Northeast India.
- ❖ The marbled cat occupies 2,325 km² in Northeast dense forests.
- ❖ The Asiatic golden cat has a range of 1,850 km² limited to the forests of Northeast India.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Prof. Vasanthi Devi – demise

- ❖ Vasanthi Devi was the former Vice Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.
- ❖ She held office for two consecutive terms from 1992 to 1998.
- ❖ After her retirement, she was a member of the State Planning Commission (SPC).
- ❖ Then she served as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) during 2002-2005.
- ❖ She had contested against AIADMK leader Jayalalithaa in the R.K. Nagar constituency in 2016.



- ❖ She was active with Palli Kalvi Pathukappu Iyakkam (movement for saving school education) till her last days.
- ❖ She has strongly opposed the National Education Policy and advocated free and equitable education for children.

