

August - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Krasheninnikov Volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula erupted for the first time in over 600 years following a massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake.
- ❖ A total of 1,374 children were rescued from the child labour, begging, and illegal employment by Cyberabad (Telangana) police during Operation Muskaan-XI held from July 1 to 31, 2025.
- ❖ India will launch its first franchise-style archery league in October in New Delhi, marking a new era for the sport.
- ❖ The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) and Telangana government signed an MoU to launch India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad.
- ❖ India and the Philippines conducted their first-ever bilateral joint naval exercise in the South China Sea.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### AGNISHODH for defence innovation

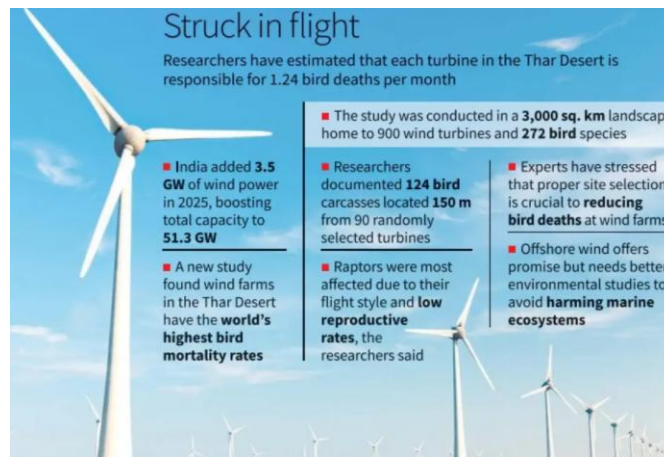


- ❖ The Indian Army and IIT Madras launched Agnishodh Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) to boost self-reliance in defence technology.
- ❖ It aims to integrate academic research with operational needs under the Army's transformation pillar of modernisation and technology infusion.

- ❖ The centre will collaborate with the IIT Madras Research Park Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development Centre (AMTDC) and Pravartak Technologies Foundation.
- ❖ Military personnel will be trained in areas like additive manufacturing, cyber security, quantum computing, wireless communication, and unmanned aerial systems.
- ❖ Agnishodh will transform academic excellence into battlefield innovation, supporting India's progress towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Wind energy and birds' death



- ❖ India added 3.5-gigawatt (GW) wind energy capacity in early 2025, marking 82 percent growth and raising total capacity to 51.3 GW.
- ❖ A Wildlife Institute of India (WII) study in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, found 124 bird carcasses near 90 turbines across seven surveys in a 3,000 square kilometre area.
- ❖ The estimated annual bird mortality was 4,464 birds per 1,000 square kilometre after adjusting for detection errors and scavenging.
- ❖ No carcasses were found at control sites, confirming wind turbines as the main cause of deaths, especially affecting raptors.
- ❖ The Experts suggested the mitigation through blade painting, seasonal turbine shutdowns and site selection using the Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning (AVISTEP).
- ❖ AVISTEP, developed by Birdlife International, helps identify areas of low to very high avian sensitivity for safer project planning.

- ❖ India plans 30 GW offshore wind capacity by 2030 with 4 GW bids launched in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

### **PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha**



- ❖ Prime Minister's Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) has set a Guinness World Record for most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month.
- ❖ The eighth edition of the programme received 3.53 crore valid registrations.
- ❖ PPC involves the Prime Minister directly interacting with students, teachers and parents to reduce exam stress and promote positive learning.
- ❖ The initiative transforms the exam season into a festival of positivity, preparation and purposeful learning.
- ❖ The first edition of PPC was held in 2018.
- ❖ The eighth edition featured personalities like actor Deepika Padukone, boxer MC Mary Kom, and spiritual leader Sadh guru.

### **DPCC vs Lodhi Property Co Ltd**

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) can impose and collect fixed sums as restitutionary and compensatory damages under Sections 33A (Water Act) and 31A (Air Act).
- ❖ PCBs may also require bank guarantees as ex-ante measures to prevent potential environmental damage.
- ❖ The power to impose such damages must follow the very detailed principles and procedures ensuring natural justice in subordinate legislation.

- ❖ The Court has distinguished restitutionary damages from punitive fines, which require statutory procedures under Chapters VI and VII of the Water and Air Acts.
- ❖ The Polluter Pays principle justifies the compensation for environmental damage, remedial action, and pollution avoidance.
- ❖ The PCBs can act both after the actual damage or pre-emptively when potential environmental harm is anticipated.
- ❖ Powers under Sections 33A and 31A are similar to Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, enabling directions for payment and remedial use.
- ❖ The High Court's restrictive interpretation of PCBs' powers was overturned now.
- ❖ Boards must decide whether to impose penalties, demand restoration, or both, guided by non-arbitrariness and transparency.
- ❖ The Supreme Court set aside the High Court's order that invalidated show-cause notices issued by DPCC.

### **SC CLARIFIES POWERS OF POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS TO IMPOSE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES**



### **Sawalkote Hydropower Project**

- ❖ The central government has initiated the 1,856-megawatt (MW) Sawalkote Hydro electric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The ₹209.80 crore project is the largest hydro project in the Union Territory.
- ❖ The Sawalkote project was originally proposed in the 1960s.
- ❖ Following the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack, India suspended the 1960 treaty, gaining full control over the Jhelum and Chenab rivers.

- ❖ The government also plans to revive Tulbul Navigation Project (Wullar Barrage), previously halted due to treaty constraints.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Indo-Burma Ramsar Initiative



- ❖ Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) was developed by the Ramsar National Focal Points of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office.
- ❖ The initiative is supported by IUCN's Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) project.
- ❖ IBRRI aims to implement the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention through coordinated regional action.
- ❖ At the fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention, IBRRI launched its Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030.



- ❖ The plan sets a transboundary framework to halt and reverse wetland loss across member states.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Shortest day in 2025



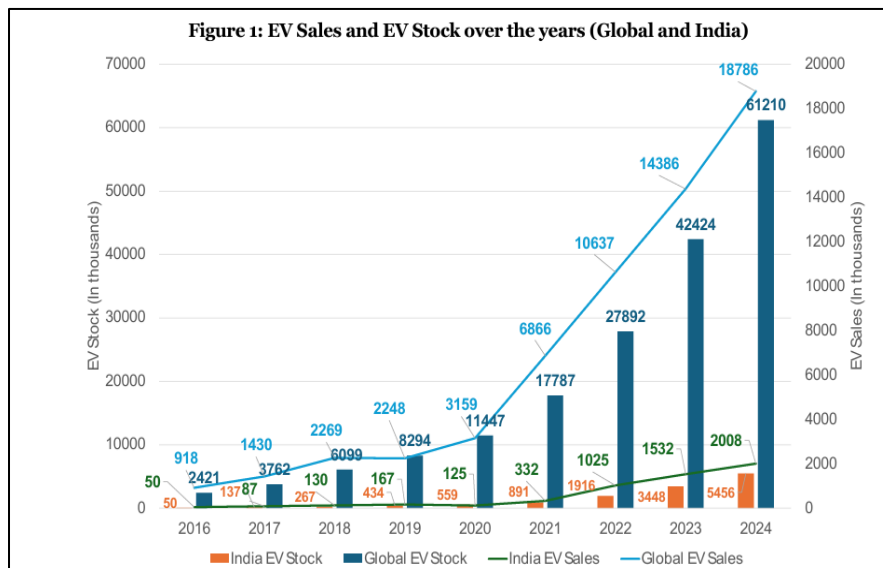
- ❖ August 5, 2025, was shorter by 1.34 milliseconds than the standard 24 hours.
- ❖ The change was due to the shifts in the Earth's inner core and fluctuations in atmospheric and oceanic pressure.
- ❖ When the core slows down, the outer layers spin slightly faster to conserve the angular momentum.
- ❖ Ocean currents, winds, and lunar gravity also influence Earth's rotation and day length.
- ❖ This shortening does not affect daily life but impacts systems that rely on precise timekeeping, like atomic clocks and the Global Positioning System.
- ❖ The Earth's shortest day so far was July 5, 2024, when rotation finished 1.66 milliseconds early.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Electric Vehicle Opportunity Report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled "Unlocking a 200 billion Dollar Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India" in New Delhi.

- ❖ The report aims to shift focus from incentives to mandates and disincentives for accelerating electric vehicle adoption.
- ❖ It highlights the need to focus on high-potential vehicle segments and geographic regions.
- ❖ NITI Aayog also launched the first edition of the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI).
- ❖ IEMI evaluates and scores all States and Union Territories out of 100 based on 16 indicators.
- ❖ The indicators are grouped under three core themes:
  - Transport Electrification Progress,
  - Charging Infrastructure Readiness, and
  - Electric Vehicle Research and Innovation Status.
- ❖ The index helps to track the demand-side adoption, charging infrastructure development, and innovation in electric mobility across India.



## Global AI City Index 2025

- ❖ Bengaluru secured 26th position in the Global Artificial Intelligence City Index 2025.
- ❖ The index by Counterpoint Research highlights Bengaluru's rapid growth in AI R&D and foreign investments.
- ❖ Mumbai and Delhi are innovating in AI for traffic management and public security.

- ❖ Singapore topped the global index, followed by Seoul, Beijing, Dubai, and San Francisco.

TOP AI CITIES		WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?
1 Singapore	6 Hong Kong	26 Bengaluru
2 Seoul	7 Tokyo	27 Mumbai
3 Beijing	8 Abu Dhabi	28 Delhi
4 Dubai	9 New York City	29 Kolkata
5 San Francisco	10 Shanghai	

## STATES' NEWS

### Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme



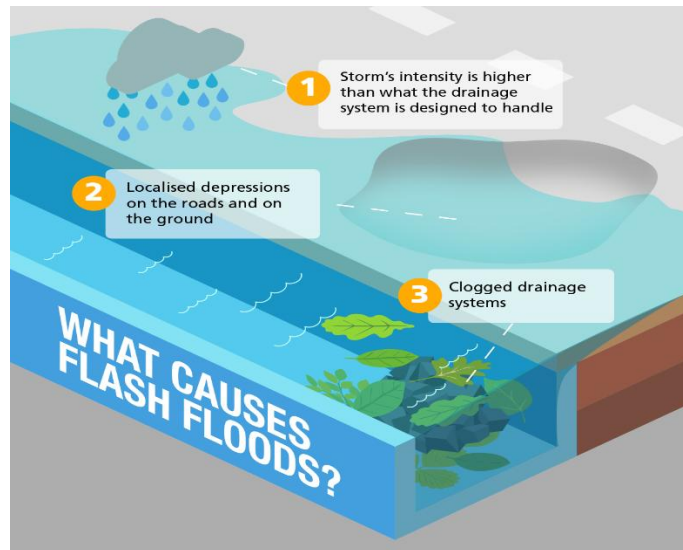
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh launched the Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kisan scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to empower Andhra Pradesh farmers financially and improve their livelihood and agricultural productivity.
- ❖ The Super Six initiative promises Rs 20,000 annual support in three instalments, plus pension hikes and free services for women.
- ❖ Key programs include Polam Pilustondi, drip irrigation with 90% subsidy, and technology-driven crop advisories to boost yield.

### Uttarakhand flash floods

- ❖ A cloudburst has triggered flash floods in Dharali village, Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, India.
- ❖ The sudden downpour caused the Kheerganga river to swell rapidly, flooding roads, buildings, and shops.



- ❖ The ancient Kalpkedar temple was damaged and submerged in sludge.
- ❖ The flood created an artificial lake by blocking the Bhagirathi River, threatening downstream towns and villages.
- ❖ Flash floods are sudden, intense floods caused by heavy rain or cloudbursts, leading to rapid water rise and strong currents that can cause severe damage.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Shibu Soren demise



- ❖ Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) co-founder Shibu Soren passed away.
- ❖ Known as Dishom Guru or Guruji, he played a very key role in the formation of Jharkhand and was a leading voice for tribal rights and social justice.

- ❖ Soren served three terms as Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- ❖ He was elected multiple times to the Lok Sabha from Dumka.
- ❖ He served as Union Coal Minister from May 23 to July 24, 2004; November 27, 2004 to March 2, 2005; and January 29 to November 2006.
- ❖ He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2020.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Arya Samaj marriages



- ❖ The Allahabad High Court last week directed the Uttar Pradesh government to investigate about unlawful Arya Samaj marriages.
- ❖ The Arya Samaj was formally established by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 as a Hindu revivalist movement.
- ❖ The Arya Samaj has made the attempts to convert persons from other faiths or ideologies to its version of Vedic, monotheistic Hinduism through a process it called “shuddhi” (purification).
- ❖ Arya Samaj weddings are favoured by couples seeking quick marriages, especially those from different castes or faiths.
- ❖ In 1937, the Arya Marriage Validation Act was passed to “remove doubts” and to recognise the validity of Arya Samaj marriages.
- ❖ These weddings take place as per a specific set of Hindu rituals, but only require the bride and groom to be of marriageable age and declare themselves to be Arya Samajis — regardless of their caste or religion.



- ❖ This process is faster and simpler than the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which mandates a 30-day public notice and more formal procedures.
- ❖ In Uttar Pradesh, Section 6 of the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 renders void any marriage that is preceded by an unlawful or procedurally non-compliant religious conversion.
- ❖ It requires pre- and post-conversion declarations and places the burden of proof on the accused to show voluntary consent.
- ❖ Arya Samaj shuddhi rituals often do not meet these legal standards, creating conflicts between Arya Samaj marriages and state laws.

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