



August - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Telangana Police had rescued 7,600 children last month under the nationwide Operation Muskaan XI initiative.
- ❖ Delhi Assembly becomes India's first legislature to run entirely on the solar power with a 500-kilowatt rooftop plant.
- ❖ IIT-Palakkad has rolled out India's first AI-powered learning app for students preparing for competitive exams like JEE, NEET and CAT.
- ❖ The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has got a record-low price of ₹55.75 per kg for green ammonia in its first-ever auction under the National Green Hydrogen Mission's SIGHT Scheme.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### 'Ungaludan Stalin Scheme

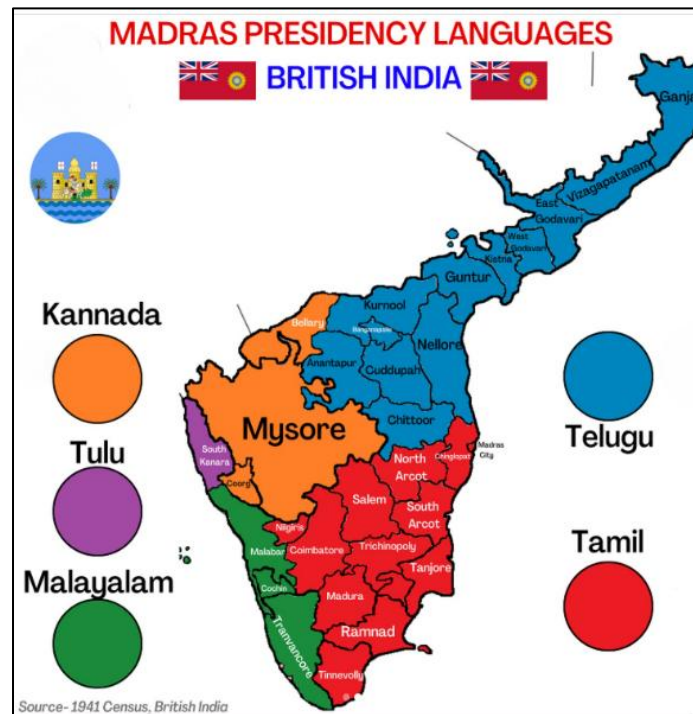
#### **Supreme Court allows use of CM Stalin's name and image in 'Ungaludan Stalin' scheme; fines ADMK MP ₹10 lakh**

Supreme Court quashed Madras HC's interim order restricting CM Stalin's name and image in Ungaludan Stalin scheme; imposed ₹10 lakh cost on ADMK MP CV Shanmugam for using courts for political gain.

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has dismissed a plea against the naming of the Tamil Nadu government outreach programme 'Ungaludan Stalin' on August 6, 2025.
- ❖ The apex court termed the plea as misconceived and an abuse of law.
- ❖ A penalty of ₹10 lakh was imposed on C. Ve. Shanmugam, which is to be paid to the Tamil Nadu government for use in welfare schemes.
- ❖ The Supreme Court set aside a Madras High Court order that had restrained the Tamil Nadu government from naming schemes after living persons.
- ❖ The court noted that restricting only the ruling party and its Chief Minister showed political intent.

- ❖ The court stated that naming schemes after political leaders is a common practice across India.
- ❖ The petitioner had not challenged schemes named after other living leaders from various political parties.
- ❖ The petition had also requested the action from the Election Commission of India under Paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols Reservation and Allotment Order of 1968.
- ❖ The petition has sought intervention by the Content Regulation Committee on Government Advertising against the use of the name Stalin.
- ❖ The court had concluded that the outreach programme 'Ungaludan Stalin' is citizen-focused and not intended as political propaganda.
- ❖ The judgment allows the Tamil Nadu government to continue to using the name 'Ungaludan Stalin' for its welfare programme.

### Social Divide in Madras Pyall Schools



- ❖ The 1871 Educational Census of Madras Presidency highlighted sharp caste and class divisions in pyall schools.
- ❖ Upper-caste children had elaborate admission rituals with religious ceremonies and gifts to Brahmin teachers.
- ❖ Teachers in wealthy areas earned between five and twenty-five rupees monthly based on student numbers and gifts.

- ❖ Poor children had no entry rituals and paid one to two annas only after learning the alphabet.
- ❖ Teachers in poor schools earned between five to ten rupees per month from minimal fees and gifts.
- ❖ Muslim schools charged no monthly fee, with teachers relying solely on voluntary gifts during chapters and festivals.
- ❖ The term "pyall" can refer to different things depending on the context.
- ❖ It most commonly refers to a raised platform or veranda commonly found in Indian homes.

### ‘Maaperum Tamil Kanavu’

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the third phase of the initiative on August 6.
- ❖ The phase was aimed to benefit over two lakh students and 200 colleges across the state.
- ❖ The programme aimed to educate youth on ancient Tamil culture, literature and history.
- ❖ It also focused on the importance of an egalitarian society and job opportunities.

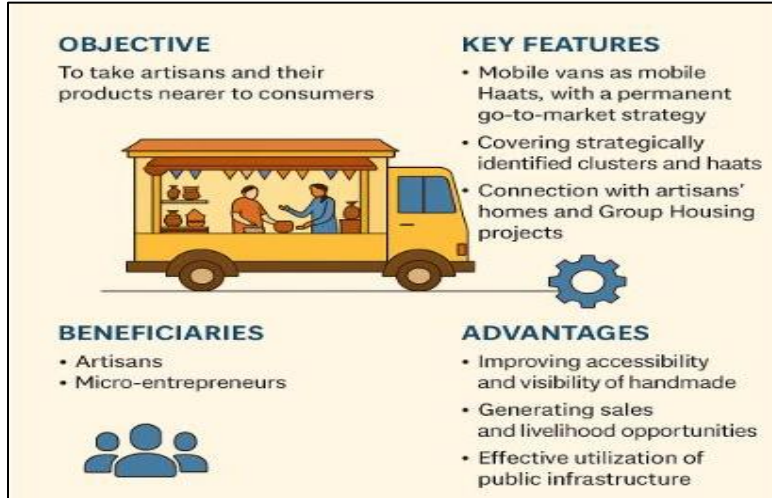


## NATIONAL NEWS

### Haat on Wheels Initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles and the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) celebrated the 11th National Handloom Day in New Delhi.
- ❖ An exclusive Handloom Expo and a mobile retail initiative called "Haat on Wheels" were launched at Janpath.

- ❖ It aims to promote handloom products by bringing them directly to consumers at various locations.
- ❖ "Haat on Wheels" helps in preserving and promoting India's traditional weaving practices.



### Vanashakti Vs Union of India case



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India struck down the 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum that allowed ex-post facto environmental clearances.
- ❖ Environmental Clearances (ECs) under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 must be obtained before project commencement.
- ❖ The struck down 2017 Notification introduced a one-time amnesty for projects that began without prior ECs.
- ❖ The 2021 Office Memorandum provided a procedural framework to grant retrospective approvals.



- ❖ The court ruled that ex-post facto ECs violate the precautionary principle and the environmental rule of law.
- ❖ The 2021 Office Memorandum was considered a regulatory instrument lacking statutory authority.
- ❖ Retrospective clearances encouraged violations and undermined the EIA framework's integrity.
- ❖ The court maintained that prior EC is a substantive legal safeguard and not a mere formality.
- ❖ Past ex-post facto clearances granted before the judgment remain valid to protect legal stability.
- ❖ No further more retrospective environmental clearances can be granted after this judgment.
- ❖ Projects that started without ECs and did not apply for regularisation before the ruling face enforcement actions.
- ❖ The Enforcement actions may include show-cause notices, financial penalties, closure or demolition orders.
- ❖ The Regulatory bodies such as Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) and State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) cannot process ex-post EC applications.
- ❖ The ruling requires, the project developers to obtain environmental clearances prior to land acquisition and construction.
- ❖ It emphasizes integrating environmental compliance in early project planning and contracts.
- ❖ Investors must consider this ruling in environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk assessments and disclosures.

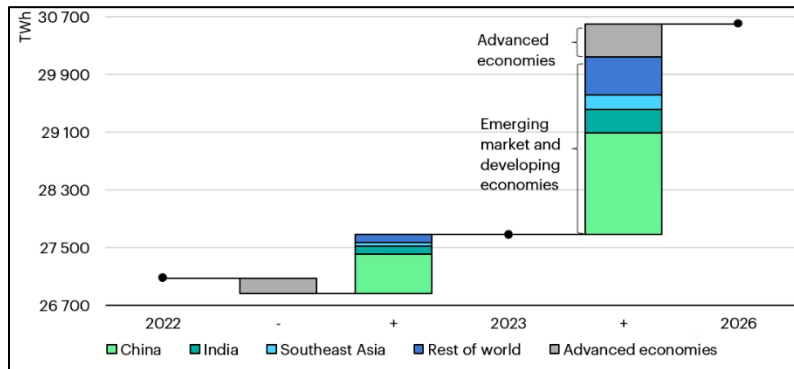
## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **IEA Mid-Year Electricity Update 2025**

- ❖ Global electricity demand is forecast to grow by 3.3% in 2025 and 3.7% in 2026, outpacing the 2015–2023 average of 2.6%.
- ❖ China and India will account for 60% of global electricity demand growth through 2026.
- ❖ The Wind and solar PV are expected to meet over 90% of demand growth in 2025, with combined generation set to surpass 6,000 TWh in 2026.
- ❖ The Coal-fired power generation declined in China and India in early 2025 but rose in the United States and European Union due to fuel switching.



- ❖ Global power sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to plateau in 2025 and slightly decline in 2026 due to renewables growth.
- ❖ Nuclear power generation is on track to reach a record high in 2025.
- ❖ Wholesale electricity prices rose 30–40% in the United States and the EU in early 2025 due to higher gas prices, while negative price hours increased in Germany and Spain.



## India and the Philippines strategic partnership

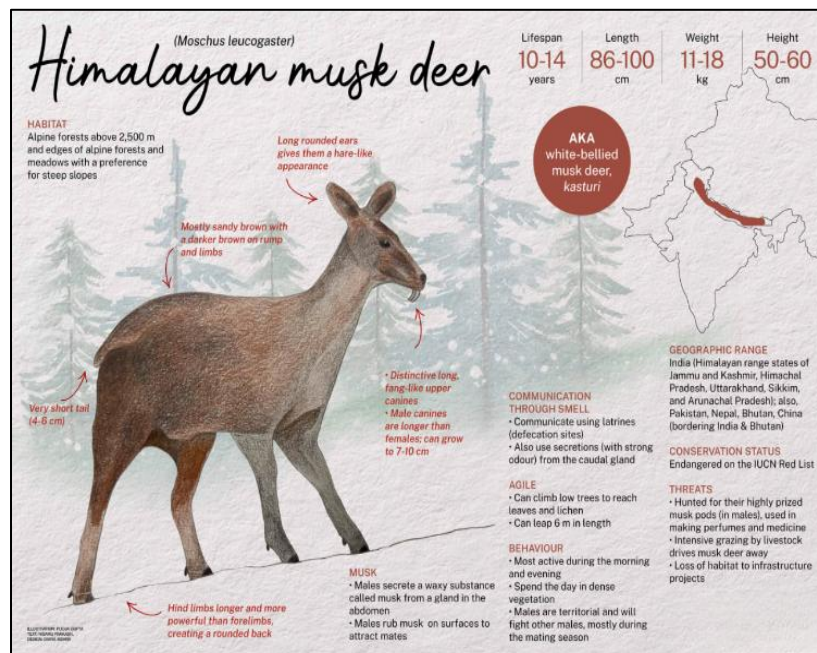


- ❖ On August 5, 2025, India and the Philippines established a Strategic Partnership during Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s State Visit to India.
- ❖ A comprehensive Plan of Action for 2025 to 2029 was outlined to guide the partnership.
- ❖ The partnership builds on 75 years of diplomatic relations and the 1952 Treaty of Friendship.

- ❖ Cooperation will cover political, defence, security, maritime, trade, investment, science, technology, health, agriculture, digital technologies, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.
- ❖ Both nations support a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region adhering to international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- ❖ Economic focus includes boosting bilateral trade worth USD 3.3 billion in 2024-25 and concluding a Preferential Trade Agreement.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Alpine Musk Deer Conservation Error



- ❖ The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) report revealed misidentification of the Alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) in Indian zoo breeding programmes.
- ❖ Zoos in Uttarakhand and West Bengal mistakenly bred the Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) instead.
- ❖ The Alpine musk deer is listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN in its 2014 assessment.
- ❖ There is no current captive population of the Alpine musk deer in any Indian zoo.
- ❖ No recent population estimates exist for the Alpine musk deer in the wild since the 1980s.

- ❖ A total of Rs 28.94 crore was allocated to Indian zoos for breeding programmes between 2006 and 2021.

### **Ashtamudi wetland Management**

- ❖ Kerala High Court directed the State government and the State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) to form an Ashtamudi Wetland Management Unit within two months of notification.
- ❖ The court ordered a site-specific integrated management plan for the Ashtamudi wetland to be completed within six months.
- ❖ Ashtamudi Lake is Kerala's second-largest wetland and was designated a Ramsar site in 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ The wetland's area has shrunk from 61.40 square kilometres to 34 square kilometres and faces high pollution and siltation.
- ❖ In 2023, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) fined the State government ₹10 crore for failing to protect Ashtamudi Lake and other wetlands.
- ❖ The court has directed the unit to create standard procedures for operations and maintain a public feedback system through a website or social media.



## **STATES' NEWS**

### **Sign language experts for juvenile justice**

- ❖ Punjab has become the first state in India to empanel sign language interpreters, translators and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015.





- ❖ The move aims to ensure accessible and sensitive justice for children with hearing and speech impairments.
- ❖ Experts will be deployed district-wise to provide support services to children in need during court proceedings and other official matters.
- ❖ This initiative aligns with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 and promotes fair and sensitive outcomes.
- ❖ The professionals will be compensated as per the legal provisions and assist in routine and urgent cases involving children with special needs.
- ❖ Punjab has previously broadcast Vidhan Sabha proceedings in sign language as part of its inclusive governance efforts.

### **Punjab to Empanel Sign Language Experts for Inclusive Justice**

- \* Punjab becomes the first state to empanel sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.**
- \* The move will also apply to cases under the POCSO Act, 2012.**
- \* Aim is to bridge communication gaps for children with speech or hearing impairments.**
- \* Seeks to improve access to justice for differently-abled children.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Sarnath - Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage**

- ❖ India has submitted this year a dossier titled 'Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath' to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the 2025-26 nomination cycle.
- ❖ As per the Operational Guidelines, 2024, only one property can be submitted for the inscription process in any given cycle.
- ❖ Sarnath has been on UNESCO's "tentative list" since 1998.
- ❖ Sarnath is located near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It is a major Buddhist pilgrimage site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakkara parivattana) after enlightenment.
- ❖ It is also known by names such as Rishipatana, Mrigadava, and Mrigadaya.



**Sarnath Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage**

