



**August - 11**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Arunachal mountaineer Kabak Yano successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro as part of her seven-summit mission.
- ❖ The Republic of Moldova has joined the International Solar Alliance as its 107th member.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister launched the M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace to honour global contributions to food security.
  - The Nigerian scientist Dr. Arenare became the first recipient for his efforts in reducing hunger.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Sarasvati Mahal Library**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has declared the Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library and Research Centre as a library of the historical and cultural importance.
- ❖ The library is now classified as an aided library under the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Rules 1950.
- ❖ The collections of the palace library are believed to have begun in the sixteenth century under the Nayak rulers of Thanjavur from 1535 to 1675 Common Era (CE).
- ❖ The Maratha rulers later expanded the collection with significant contributions from Raja Serfoji the Second, who ruled from 1798 to 1832 CE.
- ❖ Raja Serfoji the Second was a known bibliophile who acquired several books and manuscripts for the library.
- ❖ The library is housed within the historic Thanjavur Palace.
- ❖ It holds over eighty-one thousand four hundred books and forty-seven thousand five hundred palm leaf and paper manuscripts.
- ❖ The personal collection of the Raja includes the four thousand five hundred and thirty books.
- ❖ The manuscripts are in Tamil, Sanskrit, Marathi, Telugu, Hindi, English, French, German, and Italian languages.
- ❖ The scripts used in the palm leaves include Grantha, Devanagari, Nandi Nagari, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Odiya.

- ❖ The Tamil collection also covers Saiva Vaishnavaita and Jain religious works, along with rare medicinal texts.
- ❖ The Sarasvati Mahal Library is regarded as one of the greatest Oriental manuscript libraries in the world.
- ❖ It is also considered among the oldest libraries in Asia.



## New School Education Policy 2025



**மாநில கல்விக் கொள்கை VS தேசிய கல்விக் கொள்கை**

11ம் வகுப்புக்கு பொதுத்தேர்வு ரத்து; 10, 12 வகுப்புகளுக்கு மட்டுமே பொதுத்தேர்வு	3, 5, 8, 10, 12-ம் வகுப்புகளுக்கு பொதுத்தேர்வு நடத்த பரிந்துரைக்கப்படுகிறது
1 முதல் 8-ம் வகுப்பு வரை அனைவரும் தேர்ச்சி	3, 5, 8ம் வகுப்புகளில் தேர்ச்சி பெறாவிட்டால் மறுதேர்வு கட்டாயம்
தமிழ், ஆங்கிலம் – இருமொழிக்கொள்கை	தாய்மொழி (பிரதான மொழியாக), ஆங்கிலம், ஏதேனும் ஒரு இந்திய மொழி (விருப்ப மொழியாக) – மும்மொழிக் கொள்கை
கல்வி மாநிலப் பட்டியலுக்கு கொண்டு வரப்பட வேண்டும்	கல்வி பொதுப்பட்டியலில் நீடிக்கும்
5 வயது முதல் 1-ம் வகுப்பில் சேர்க்கை	6 வயது முதல் 1-ம் வகுப்பில் சேர்க்கை

- ❖ Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released the TN State School Education Policy on August 8, 2025.
- ❖ The policy reinforces the two-language formula, allowing only Tamil and English in all schools across the state.

- ❖ It promotes a creative learning over memorisation, links academics with physical training, and highlights the importance of the Tamil language.
- ❖ The policy was framed based on recommendations from the Justice D Murugesan Committee, which was formed in April 2022.
- ❖ The Formal schooling will start from Class 1 only if the child completes five years by July 31 of the academic year.
- ❖ Board exam for Class 11 has been removed for this year and the goal is for one hundred percent of students to pursue higher education.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Coastal Shipping Bill 2025



- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Coastal Shipping Bill 2025 on August 7, 2025.
- ❖ The Bill aims to modernise India's coastal shipping and unlock the potential of its 11,098 km coastline.
- ❖ It replaces Part XIV of the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 and aligns with the global cabotage norms.
- ❖ The Bill simplifies licensing and regulates foreign vessels in coastal trade.
- ❖ Also, it aims to boost coastal cargo to 230 million metric tonnes by 2030.
- ❖ It mandates a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan.



- ❖ The Bill creates a National Database for the real-time shipping data to promote transparency and investment.
- ❖ This Bill, along with the Merchant Shipping Bill 2025 and Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill 2025, completes major maritime reforms.

### **SHINE initiative**

- ❖ ICMR launched the SHINE programme (Science and Health Innovation for the Nextgen Explorers) to encourage young students to explore health and biomedical research.
- ❖ Over 500 students from Assam and Tripura participated in the program held at ICMR-RMRCNE Dibrugarh and MRHRU Khumlung.
- ❖ The event targeted students from Classes 9 to 12 and included lab tours, science exhibitions, quizzes, demonstrations, and interactive sessions.
- ❖ A mascot named Dr. Curio helped to simplify complex science topics and made learning engaging for the students.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with India's vision for the Viksit Bharat by 2047 and aims to guide students towards careers in science and public health.



### **Bharat Taxi Service**

- ❖ A new taxi service named Bharat will be launched by the end of 2025 under India's cooperative sector.
- ❖ The service is backed by ₹300 crore authorised capital and the eight major cooperatives.

- ❖ It is being launched by the Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd.
- ❖ Key members include Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO), Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ The aim is to give better income to drivers and provide safe and affordable rides to customers.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Russia and INF Treaty



- ❖ Russia officially ended its commitment to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.
- ❖ Cited reasons include the US deployment of the Typhon missile system in the Philippines and the repositioning of two nuclear submarines near Russian shores.
- ❖ The INF Treaty was signed in 1987 by the United States and the Soviet Union.
- ❖ It aims to eliminate ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 km.
- ❖ It was the first major arms control deal to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons and included on-site inspections.
- ❖ The treaty had already weakened after the United States formally withdrew in 2019.

### 30 years of ISA



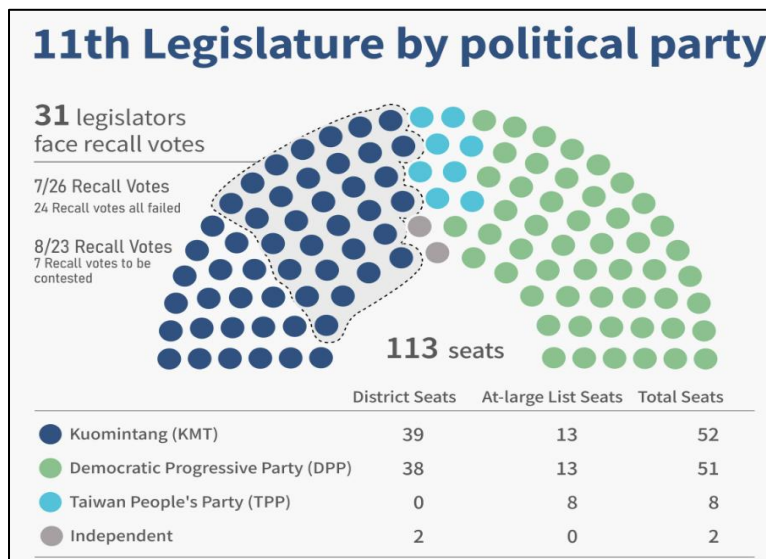
- ❖ The International Seabed Authority (ISA) concluded its 30<sup>th</sup> assembly session on 6 August 2025.
- ❖ The session had marked 30 years since ISA's creation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- ❖ ISA advanced work on a Common Heritage Fund to support sustainability and fair benefit-sharing.
- ❖ An Economic Planning Commission was also made operational to evaluate the impacts of seabed mining.
- ❖ November 1 was officially adopted as International Deep Seabed Day.



- ❖ ISA manages seabed mineral resources beyond national borders, covering 54% of the world's oceans.

### Taiwan Recall Vote

- ❖ All 24 opposition lawmakers from the Kuomintang party survived a recall vote backed by the Democratic Progressive Party and the Bluebird Movement.
- ❖ The recall was triggered by accusations of the opposition aligning with China and passing laws without following constitutional procedures.
- ❖ The Democratic Progressive Party aimed to flip six seats to regain a majority in the 113-member Legislative Yuan after losing it in the 2024 elections.
- ❖ A second round of recall voting against seven more Kuomintang lawmakers is set for late August 2025 as political tensions remain high.
- ❖ The Recall Act is a rarely used constitutional instrument, permitting citizens to remove elected officials.



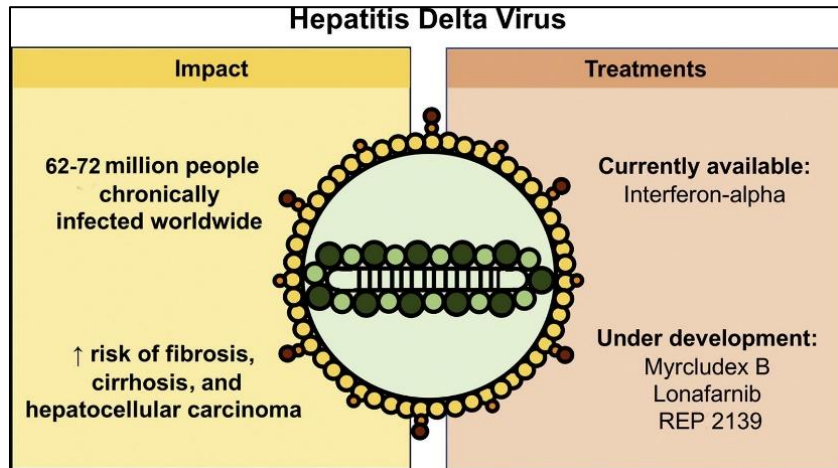
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Hepatitis D – Carcinogenic

- ❖ WHO has officially classified the Hepatitis D virus (HDV) as carcinogenic.
- ❖ Hepatitis D requires Hepatitis B virus (HBV) to replicate and increases the risk of liver cancer two to six times more than HBV alone.
- ❖ Around 75 percent of Hepatitis D patients may develop liver cirrhosis within 15 years.



- ❖ Co-infection of Hepatitis B and D leads to more severe liver disease than Hepatitis B alone.
- ❖ Universal Hepatitis B vaccination can indirectly prevent Hepatitis D, but current vaccine coverage in India remains low at around 50 percent.
- ❖ The WHO expects this carcinogenic classification to boost funding for research and global surveillance for HDV-related liver cancer.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### New rain snake species



- ❖ A new species of rain snake, named the narrow-banded rain snake, has been discovered in a tropical forest of Mizoram.
- ❖ The species is scientifically named *Smithophis leptofasciatus*.



- ❖ It is the third species in the genus *Smithophis* recorded from the state after *Smithophis atemporalis* and *Smithophis mizoramensis*.
- ❖ The snake is semi-aquatic and nocturnal and lives in humid forest areas near streams between 900 and 1200 metres elevation.
- ❖ The Mizo name proposed for the species is Ruahrul.

## STATES' NEWS

### Nijut Moina 2.0'



**Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina**  
**Total Allocation: ₹240 cr**

Illustration of a girl reading a book.

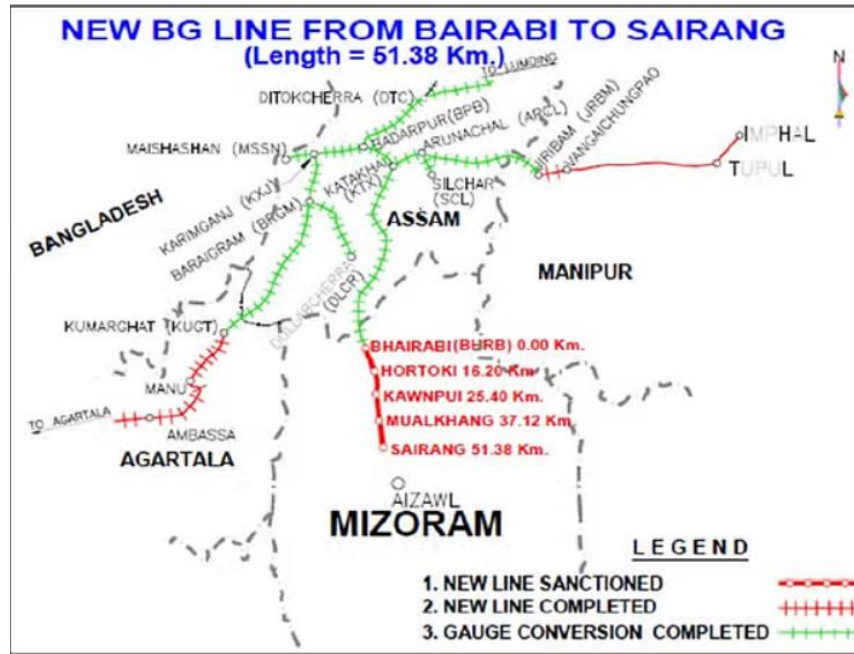
- ❖ **10 lakh** girls to be supported with financial grants as admission incentive for their higher education
- ❖ Admission incentive of **₹10,000** will be given to each girl student who joins Class XI
- ❖ **₹12,500** will be paid to those girls who join graduation first year
- ❖ For a girl doing her post-graduation first year will be given **₹15,000**

- ❖ Assam has launched the Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0 scheme to boost girls' enrolment in higher education.
- ❖ The scheme provides the monthly financial assistance to girl students studying in government and government-aided institutions from Higher Secondary (HS) to Postgraduate (PG) level.
- ❖ The scheme is universal and applies to girls from all families regardless of income.

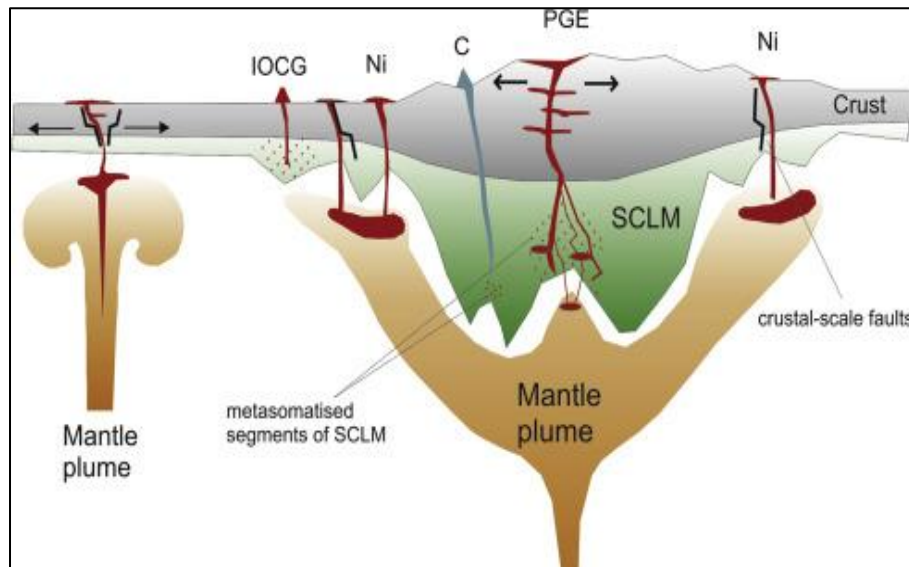
### Sairang Railway line

- ❖ The newly commissioned 51.38 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line brings the rail connectivity 18 km closer to Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram.
- ❖ The project began in 2008-09, involving 48 tunnels and 142 bridges.
- ❖ Sairang may serve as a key link to Myanmar's India-funded Sittwe Port under the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

- ❖ The Civil unrest in Myanmar and political instability in Bangladesh have delayed cross-border connectivity, including the Agartala-Akhaura and Imphal-Moreh rail links.



### Ni-Cu-PGE Mineral Belt



- ❖ A significant discovery of Nickel-Copper-Platinum Group Elements (Ni-Cu-PGE) sulphide mineralisation has been made in the Bhalukona-Jamnidihi block of the Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh.



- ❖ A 700-metre mineralised zone with sulphide deposits up to 300 metres deep was found.
- ❖ The adjacent Kelwardabri Ni–Cu–PGE block, owned by Vedanta Group, together with this discovery, positions Mahasamund as a critical mineral hub.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Lightning Mega flash

- ❖ A massive lightning bolt that lit up the sky from Texas to Kansas in October 2017 has been confirmed as the world's longest lightning flash.
- ❖ It was stretching 829 kilometres (515 miles) across the Great Plains of North America.
- ❖ The flash is a single continuous long horizontal lightning event that can produce hundreds of cloud-to-ground strikes.
- ❖ The previous record was 477 miles set in April 2020 across the southern United States and the Gulf of Mexico.
- ❖ The 2017 mega flash lasted just over 7 seconds, while the longest duration record is about 17 seconds over Argentina and Uruguay in 2020.

## NEW WORLD RECORD: ONE LIGHTNING BOLT STRETCHED 515 MILES

A massive lightning flash from 2017 has now been confirmed as the longest ever recorded. It traveled from northern Texas to Missouri, covering 515 miles in a single flash.

