

August - 13

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Delisted Political Parties

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has delisted 23 registered unrecognised political parties in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- ❖ Among them, 22 parties are based in Tamil Nadu and one party is based in Puducherry.
- ❖ Totally 334 unrecognised political parties were delisted across the country.
- ❖ The delisting was based on the failure of these parties to contest any election.
- ❖ In June, the ECI had issued notices to 24 such parties in Tamil Nadu seeking an explanation for non-participation in elections.
- ❖ After no satisfactory response, 23 of these were removed from the register.
- ❖ Delisted parties lose entitlement to benefits under Section 29B and Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
- ❖ These parties also lost tax-related benefits under the Income Tax Act 1961.
- ❖ They are not eligible for benefits under the Election Symbols Reservation and Allotment Order 1968.



NATIONAL NEWS

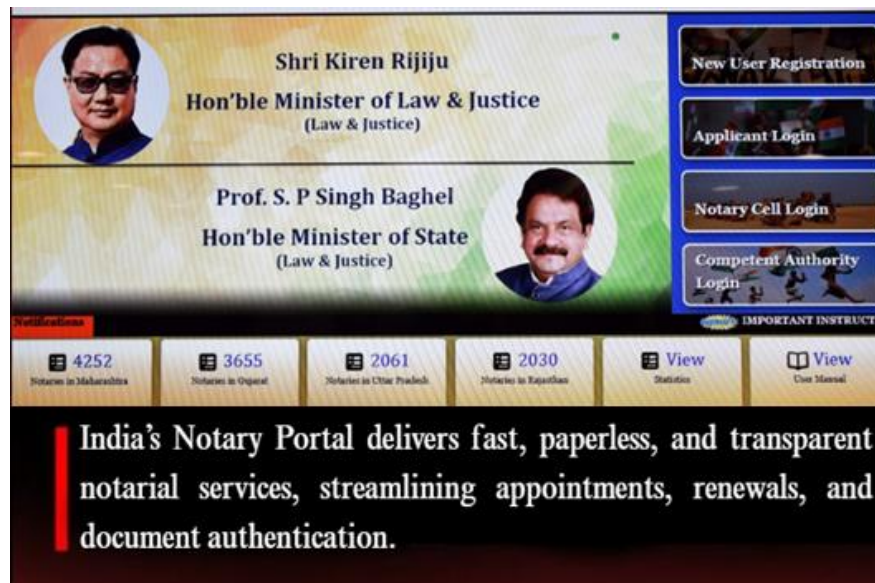
Annual Trident Lecture Series

- ❖ The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies marked its Foundation Day on August 5.

- ❖ The Annual Trident Lecture Series was inaugurated at Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantonment to mark the occasion.
- ❖ The event was anchored on the theme “Dominating the Future Battlespace.”



Notary Portal



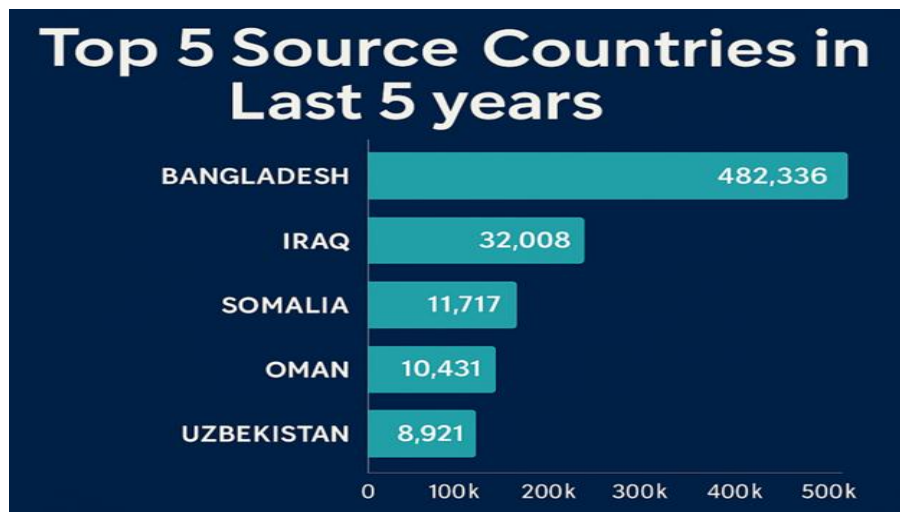
- ❖ The Government has launched the Notary Portal to offer online services under the Notaries Act 1952 and Notaries Rules 1956.
- ❖ The portal connects notaries appointed by the Central Government with the Government of India for digital legal services.



- ❖ It enables submission of applications, verification of eligibility, issuance and renewal of a digitally signed Certificate of Practice and annual return filing.
- ❖ As of 31 July 2025, over 34900 digitally signed Certificates of Practice have been issued through the portal.

Medical tourism in India

- ❖ India recorded 1,31,856 foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) for medical purposes from January to April 2025.
- ❖ Medical tourists accounted for about 4.1 per cent of total FTAs during this period.
- ❖ Public-Private Partnerships are used to promote the "Heal in India" initiative.
- ❖ The Government of India offers e-medical visa and e-medical attendant visa facilities to nationals of 171 countries to facilitate medical visits.
- ❖ Top source countries for medical tourists over the last five years include Bangladesh, Iraq, Somalia, Oman, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Bangladesh consistently leads with 4,82,336 medical tourist arrivals in 2024.
- ❖ Total FTAs for medical purposes increased from 1,82,945 in 2020 to 6,44,387 in 2024.

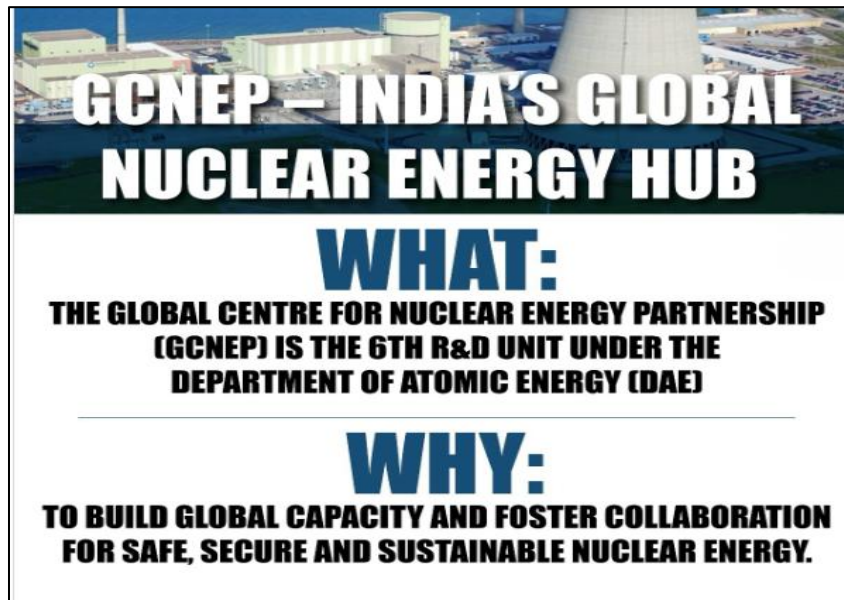


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership

- ❖ GCNEP has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with 17 countries and international agencies, including the IAEA.

- ❖ Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) is the sixth research and development unit under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- ❖ GCNEP focuses on capacity building and international collaboration in the field of nuclear energy.
- ❖ It works with global partners, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to promote safe, secure and sustainable nuclear energy.



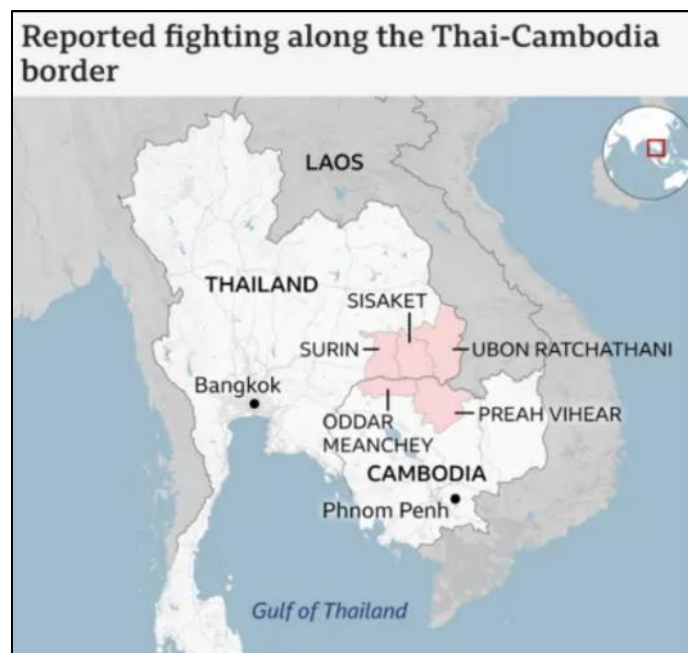
UN Conference on Landlocked Countries

- ❖ The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Awaza, Turkmenistan.
- ❖ The conference ended with the adoption of the Awaza Political Declaration.
- ❖ It also approved the Awaza Programme of Action for 2024 to 2034.
- ❖ The theme of the event was "Driving Progress Through Partnerships".
- ❖ The aim was to support 32 landlocked developing countries facing trade and transport challenges.
- ❖ Turkmenistan includes a health plan called Global Medicine of the Future.
- ❖ It promoted a Global Atlas of Sustainable Transport Connectivity, first shown at COP28 in Dubai.
- ❖ It launched a hydrogen energy programme for 2030 to 2040.
- ❖ It proposed a global framework for the circular economy to cut waste and boost reuse.
- ❖ Turkmenistan highlighted the Caspian Environmental Initiative to protect the sea region.

- ❖ It supported the UN Aral Sea Basin Programme to solve one of the world's worst environmental crises.
- ❖ It also promoted 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust.
- ❖ This marks 30 years of Turkmenistan's neutrality and 80 years of the United Nations.



Thailand and Cambodia ceasefire



- ❖ Thailand and Cambodia held four-day talks in Malaysia to finalise a ceasefire after deadly border clashes.

- ❖ The ceasefire was brokered by ASEAN, chaired by Malaysia, with support from the United States.
- ❖ Tariffs on goods between the two countries were reduced from 36% to 19% as part of the ceasefire deal.
- ❖ Discussions included plans for an ASEAN-led monitoring team, though the territorial dispute near the Preah Vihear temple, Cambodia, remains unresolved.

Azerbaijan and Armenia's Peace Deal

- ❖ Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a peace agreement in Washington.
- ❖ The deal ends nearly four decades of conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region following Azerbaijan's military campaign in 2023.
- ❖ The two countries agreed to create a transit corridor called the Trump Route.
- ❖ It will connect Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan exclave through Armenian territory under Armenian law.
- ❖ The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group (OSCE Minsk Group), which mediated the conflict since 1992, will be dissolved.



ECONOMY NEWS

GST notice to small vendors

- ❖ Karnataka Commercial Taxes Department used UPI data to identify tax evaders.
- ❖ Notices were sent to thousands of small vendors suspected of evading taxes.
- ❖ GST exempts small businesses with a turnover under ₹40 lakh for goods and ₹20 lakh for services.
- ❖ However, vendors selling taxable items alongside exempt goods may owe taxes.

- ❖ By 2025, UPI transactions reached ₹260 lakh crore annually, capturing 28% of retail payments.
- ❖ In FY25, 70% of UPI transactions were peer-to-peer and 30% peer-to-merchant.

GST Registration threshold limit		
Type of Business	Threshold Limit	Applicability
Selling Goods	₹40 lakh	Normal Category States
Selling Goods	₹20 lakh	Special Category States
Providing Services	₹20 lakh	All States

India's Export Growth in 2024-25



- ❖ India exported goods valued at \$437.4 billion during 2024-25.
- ❖ It was 0.1% higher than the \$437.1 billion in the previous financial year ended March 31, 2025.
- ❖ During April-June 2025, total exports, at \$112 billion, were 1.7% up over the \$110.1 billion for April-June 2024.
- ❖ India's agricultural produce exports registered 6.4% growth, from \$48.8 billion in 2023-24 to \$51.9 billion in 2024-25.
- ❖ If trends hold, farm exports could even touch \$55 billion in 2025-26, crossing the previous record of \$53.2 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ The country had an overall deficit of \$282.8 billion in its overall merchandise trade account during 2024-25.

- ❖ Gujarat remained India's top exporting state for the fifth consecutive year with exports worth ₹9.83 trillion accounting for 26.6 per cent of India's total exports.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Numbeo Index 2025

- ❖ India ranked 67th globally in the Numbeo Safety Index 2025 with a score of 55.8.
- ❖ The data was released by Numbeo, an online global database of user-contributed data about cities and countries.
- ❖ Mangalore in Karnataka is the safest city in India, ranked 49th worldwide.
- ❖ Vadodara and Ahmedabad in Gujarat follow as the 2nd and 3rd safest cities nationally, ranked 85th and 93rd globally.
- ❖ Jaipur, Navi Mumbai, and Thiruvananthapuram rank 5th, 6th, and 7th in India, respectively, with safety indexes above 60.
- ❖ Chennai in Tamil Nadu ranked 8 in India and 158th globally with a safety index.
- ❖ Cities like New Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad scored low on safety with high crime index scores above 55.



STATES' NEWS

India's First Smart Village

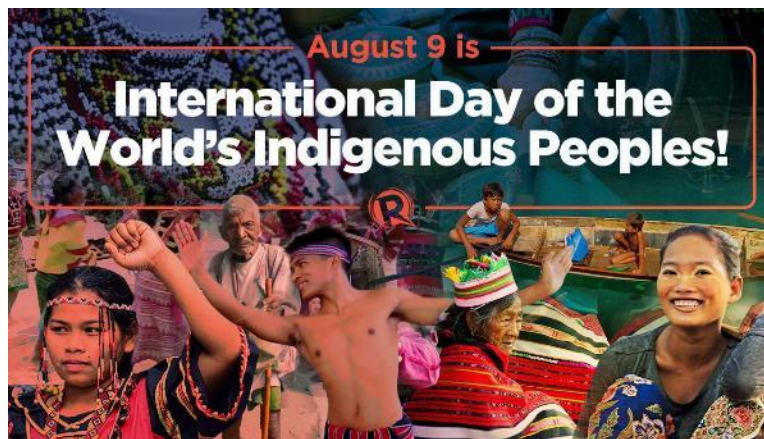
- ❖ Satnavri, a village of 1,800 residents in rural Nagpur, Maharashtra, is set to become India's first smart intelligent village under a pilot project.
- ❖ The project integrates advanced technologies like drone-assisted farming, smart irrigation, mobile banking, digitised schools, and surveillance systems.

- ❖ The pilot aims to unify digital tools such as IT-based soil testing and digital solutions for Anganwadi to drive holistic rural development.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2025 - August 09



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and promote the rights, cultures, and identities of Indigenous communities.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is "Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Defending Rights, Shaping Futures".
- ❖ The UN declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

- ❖ The UN also declared the period from 2022 to 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

International Biodiesel Day 2025 - August 10

- ❖ On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) ran a mechanical engine for the first time with groundnut oil.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- ❖ Biofuels are basically green fuels that are Environment friendly fuels, and their utilisation would address global concerns about the containment of carbon emissions.

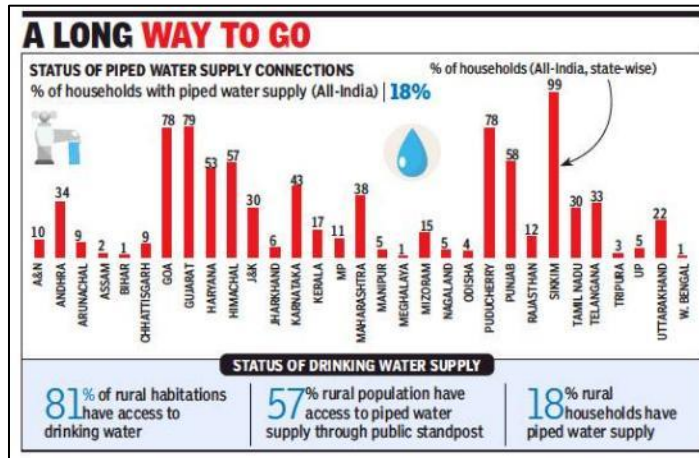


MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Groundwater Pollution Crisis

- ❖ Over 85 per cent of rural drinking water and 65 per cent of irrigation water in India come from groundwater.
- ❖ The 2024 Annual Groundwater Quality Report by the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) shows over 20 per cent of samples from 440 districts are contaminated with nitrates.
- ❖ Excess fluoride affects more than 9 per cent of samples, causing dental and skeletal fluorosis mainly in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
- ❖ Arsenic levels in Punjab and Bihar exceed World Health Organisation (WHO) safe limits, causing cancer and neurological disorders.
- ❖ Uranium contamination above 100 parts per billion (ppb) is found in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan due to fertilisers and over-extraction.
- ❖ Heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, chromium, and mercury from industrial discharge cause health problems, including neurological damage.

- ❖ Over 13 per cent of groundwater samples exceed safe iron levels, leading to gastrointestinal disorders.
- ❖ Groundwater pollution causes diseases like skeletal fluorosis, affecting 66 million people and cancer linked to arsenic exposure in several districts.
- ❖ Nitrate contamination poses a serious risk to infants, causing conditions like blue baby syndrome.
- ❖ India's groundwater pollution is a public health emergency threatening the lives of over 600 million people daily.



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