



August - 16

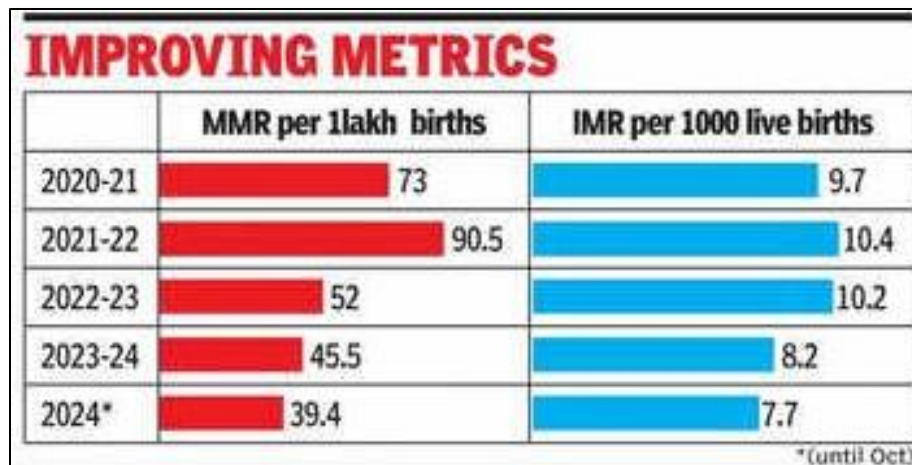
## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ International Left-Handers Day is observed annually on August 13 to raise awareness about the advantages and challenges of being left-handed.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### New Rules for Birth and Death Registration

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has notified the Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2025.
- ❖ The new rules replace the earlier set issued in the year 2000.
- ❖ Birth and death details must be submitted in the specified format without any abbreviations.
- ❖ Tahsildars can now approve registrations in village panchayats if reported after 30 days but within one year.
- ❖ Earlier, such permissions were granted by the Village Panchayat President.
- ❖ Registration certificates can now be issued in electronic format.



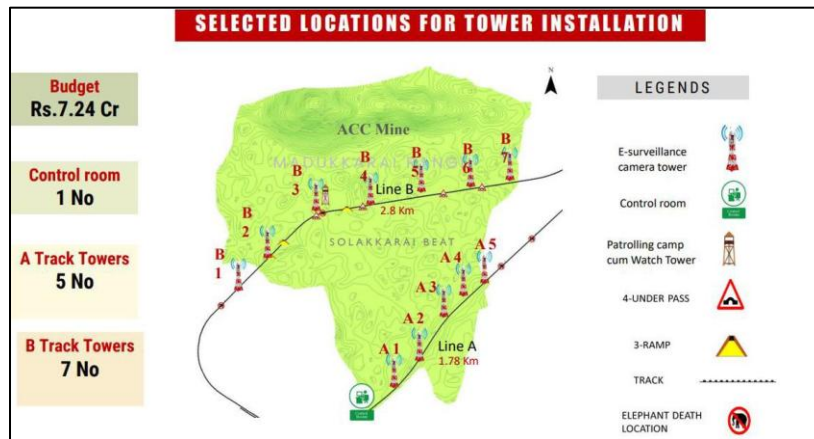
### Removal of Illegal Hoardings

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to remove illegal hoardings, arches, banners and flex-boards from roads and pedestrian platforms.
- ❖ The court stated that failure to remove such structures would amount to dereliction of duty and negligence by officials.

- ❖ The order applies to police officials, the Revenue Department and local bodies responsible for public safety.



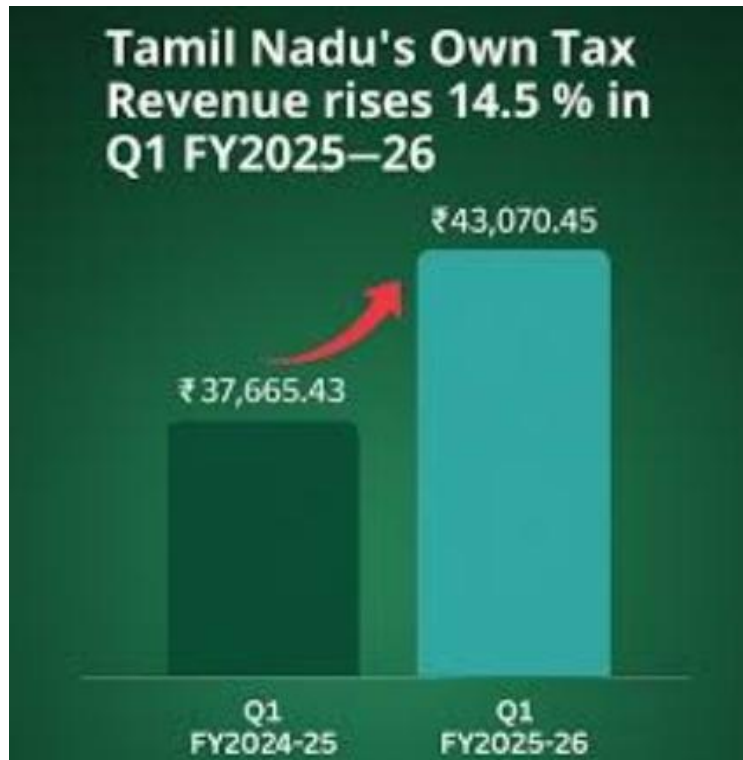
## AI Warning System



- ❖ The artificial intelligence (AI)-based warning system to prevent elephant deaths was launched in February 2024 on railway tracks in the Madukkarai forest range of Coimbatore Division.
- ❖ It has helped around 2,800 safe crossings of wild elephants to date.
- ❖ This project uses artificial intelligence, radio collars and satellites to reduce human and wildlife conflict.
- ❖ A similar early warning system will be implemented on all railway lines passing through forest areas.

- ❖ The system aims to prevent deaths of elephants, tigers and other wild animals due to train collisions.
- ❖ The initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

### Capital Expenditure in Q1 FY 2026

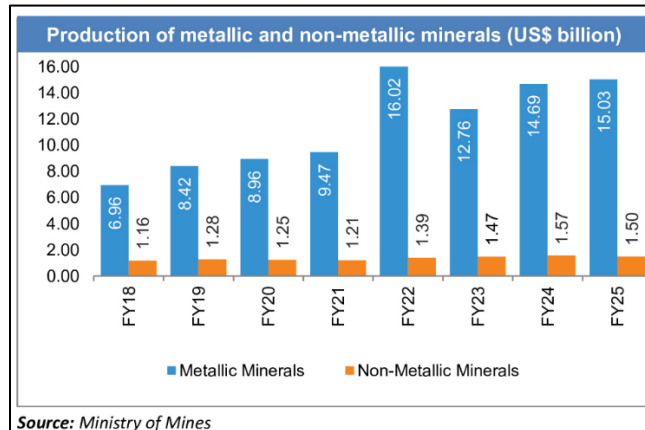


- ❖ Tamil Nadu's capital expenditure fell by about 18 per cent to ₹4155.74 crore in April to June 2025.
- ❖ It was ₹5041.90 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ Capital expenditure includes creation of assets like roads, bridges, irrigation structures, schools, hospitals and investments in public sector undertakings.
- ❖ Overall, state capital expenditure across India rose by 28 per cent in the first quarter of the financial year 2026.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh saw the highest growth at 267 per cent, followed by Haryana at 103 per cent and Gujarat at 65 per cent.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, along with Maharashtra and West Bengal, recorded a 28 per cent decline, while Telangana saw a 22 per cent decline.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's tax revenue rose by 14.5 per cent to ₹43070.45 crore from ₹37605.43 crore in the same quarter last year.

- ❖ The state's revenue expenditure dropped to ₹79054.68 crore from ₹83636.73 crore during the same period.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Mines and Minerals Bill 2025



- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2025 to update the 1957 Act.
- ❖ The Bill allows lease holders to seek state approval to add more minerals to an existing lease without extra payment for critical and strategic minerals.
- ❖ Critical minerals include lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, gold and silver, which are vital for renewable energy and electric mobility.
- ❖ The Bill expands the role of the National Mineral Exploration Trust to also support the development of mines and minerals.
- ❖ The limit on the sale of minerals from captive mines has been removed, allowing full commercial use after meeting end-use needs.
- ❖ A new authority will be set up to register and regulate mineral exchanges, ensuring greater transparency in the sector.

### Google vs CCI Case

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) has admitted Google's appeal against an antitrust ruling by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) found Google abused its dominance by forcing app developers to use its billing system with 15–30% commissions, while exempting its own apps like YouTube.

- ❖ Google was also accused of forcing smartphone makers to pre-install its apps like Search, Chrome, and YouTube to access the Play Store.
- ❖ In 2022, CCI fined Google ₹936.44 crore and ordered it to separate billing from Play Store access and ensure transparency in billing data.
- ❖ NCLAT later reduced the fine to ₹216.69 crore and dropped some measures, but upheld the billing transparency directions.



## NOTTO policy update 2025

S.No.	Jan-Dec 2024		
1	Living Donors		15505
	Deceased Donors		1128
	Domino Donors		3
	Total Donors (1+2+3)		16636
2	Kidney Transplant	Living	11558
		Deceased	1918
		Total	13476
3	Liver Transplant	Living	3946
		Deceased	952
		Domino	3
		Total	4901
4	Heart Transplants		253
5	Lung Transplants		228
6	Pancreas Transplants		44
7	Small Bowel Transplants		9
8	Total Transplants (5+6+7+8+9+10)		18,911

- ❖ The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) issued a 10-point advisory to States and UTs to boost organ donation and transplantation.
- ❖ The advisory proposes giving additional allocation points to women on transplant waiting lists to address gender disparity.



- ❖ It also suggests prioritising the near relatives of previous deceased donors for organ transplants.
- ❖ NOTTO recommends hospitals provide donor and recipient data for a national registry and assign a unique NOTTO-ID to all transplants.

### **SHRESTH initiative**

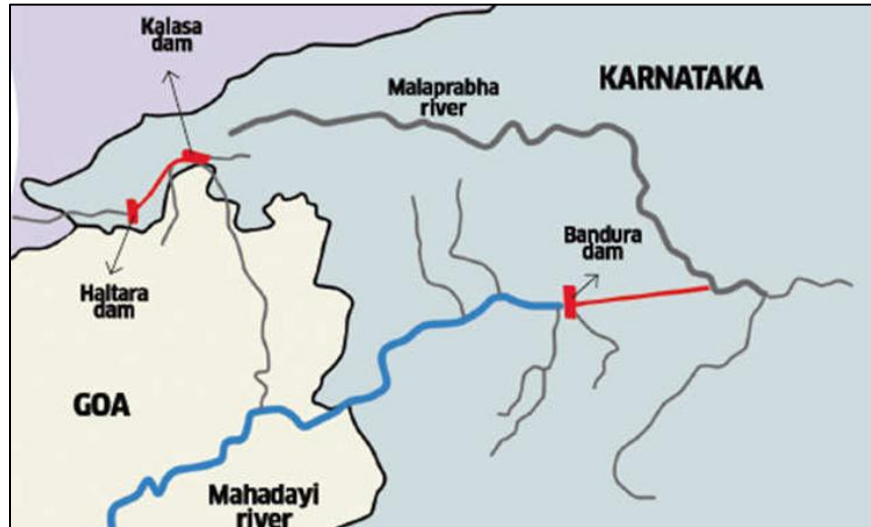
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the SHRESTH initiative.
- ❖ SHRESTH stands for State Health Regulatory Excellence Index.
- ❖ It aims to benchmark and improve state drug regulatory systems using a transparent data-driven framework.
- ❖ It is a virtual gap assessment tool helping states assess their current status and progress towards maturity certification in drug regulation.
- ❖ The Index covers Manufacturing States with 27 metrics and Distribution States with 23 metrics.
- ❖ States submit monthly data to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which scores and shares results to promote targeted improvements and cross-learning.
- ❖ SHRESTH aims to ensure drug safety, quality and efficacy for all citizens regardless of location and supports harmonisation of regulatory processes nationwide.



### **Mahadayi Water Tribunal**

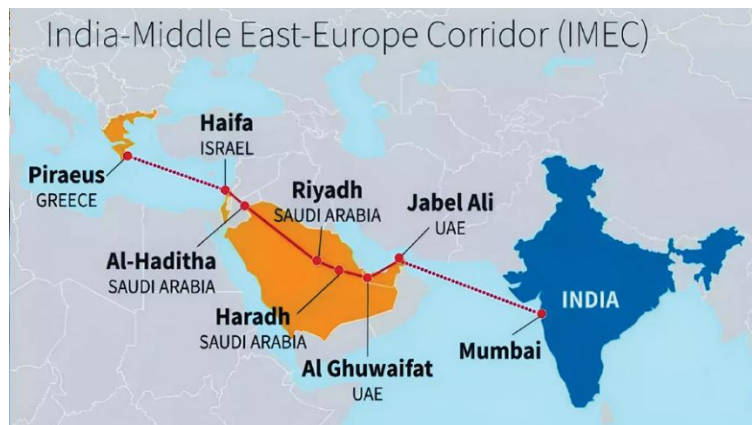
- ❖ The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal's tenure has been extended by one year from August 16, 2025.
- ❖ Constituted in November 2010, the tribunal adjudicates water sharing disputes among Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

- ❖ The tribunal has the third-longest tenure among the four active water disputes tribunals in India.
- ❖ The extension follows a request by the tribunal to extend its timeline to submit a further report after objections from the three states on its 2018 decision.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor



- ❖ The ongoing Israel-Gaza war has disrupted the IMEC corridor's progress.
- ❖ The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) aims to cut shipping time from India to Europe by about 40% through enhanced connectivity.
- ❖ IMEC's route includes two legs:
  - India to the UAE and Gulf via ports and rail, and
  - From Israel's Haifa port to Europe via Greece and Italy.

- ❖ The project was announced in 2023 during India's G20 Presidency.
- ❖ The conflict increases risks like higher insurance premiums for shipping and worsens geopolitical tensions that undermine IMEC's implementation.
- ❖ Despite challenges, India's strong ties with the UAE and Saudi Arabia keep parts of the corridor viable, particularly the India-Gulf leg.

## **STATES' NEWS**

### **Baaz Akh Anti-Drone System**

- ❖ The Punjab government deployed three Baaz Akh (Hawk Eye) anti-drone systems along the India-Pakistan border to stop drug and weapon smuggling by drones.
- ❖ The systems will be installed from Pathankot to Fazilka as a second line of defence alongside the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ❖ In 2024, Punjab seized 283 drones carrying heroin, weapons and ammunition and 137 drones have been recovered so far in 2025.
- ❖ The system alerts authorities instantly without manual monitoring and will be coordinated with the BSF, Indian Air Force and Indian Army.



### **Etalin Hydroelectric Project**

- ❖ The Expert Appraisal Committee has recommended environmental clearance for the 3,097-megawatt Etalin Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Dibang Valley district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project involves building two concrete gravity dams on the Dri and Tangon (Talo) rivers.



- ❖ Stage-I Forest clearance was already granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in June 2025.



## SPORTS NEWS

### Asian Surfing Championship 2025



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister presented medals to the winners of the Asian Surfing Championship 2025 in Mamallapuram.
- ❖ Indian surfer Ramesh Budihal won a medal for the first time in Indian surfing history.
- ❖ Korea's Kanoa Heejae won both the Men's Open and Boys Under-18 titles.
- ❖ Japan's Anri Matsuno won the Women's Open title.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Organ Donation Day 2025 - August 13

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness, honour donors, and encourage people to register as organ donors to bridge the supply-demand gap.
- ❖ It commemorates the first living donor organ transplant in 1954, when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his twin brother.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is “Answering the Call”.
- ❖ In India, National Organ Day was initially observed on November 27, starting in 2010.
- ❖ Since 2023, it has been marked on August 3 to commemorate India’s first successful deceased-donor heart transplant in 1994.



### Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2025 - August 14

- ❖ It commemorates the trauma and suffering endured during the Partition of India in 1947.
- ❖ The partition displaced between 12 and 20 million people along religious lines.
- ❖ First observed on August 14, 2021, following its declaration by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The day aims to honour the victims and promote awareness of the tragic consequences of partition.

On Jun 3, 1947, **VICEROY LORD MOUNTBATTEN** announced the **PLAN FOR PARTITION** of India & the date for Indian independence

## THE PARTITION PLAN

All-India **CONGRESS ACCEPTED** the British **PLAN FOR PARTITION** of India on Jun 15 that year

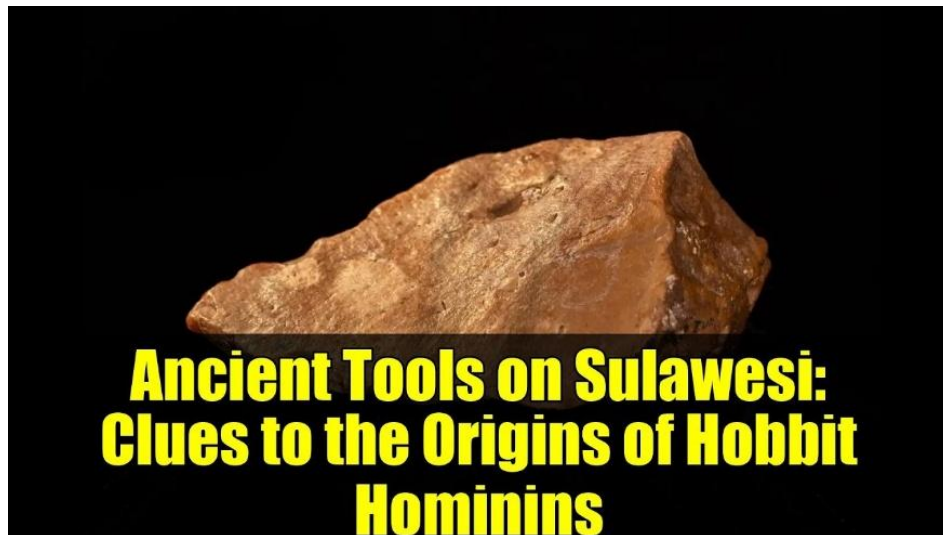
Punjab & Bengal were required to decide whether they wanted to keep their provinces united or partitioned

Sindh was also asked to take its own decision while the fate of North West Frontier Province was left to referendum

*The Indian Independence Act 1947 was the implementation of the 3 June Plan*

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Ancient tools in Indonesia




- ❖ Scientists discovered stone tools on Sulawesi Island, Indonesia.
- ❖ It dates back 1.48 million years and indicates early human presence in Wallacea.
- ❖ The tools were used to cut small animals and carve rocks.
- ❖ These findings challenge previous theories that Homo Erectus settled Wallacean islands only 1.02 million years ago due to sea travel limits.
- ❖ Wallacea is a region in Eastern Indonesia between Borneo, Java, Australia and New Guinea named after naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace.



## Muthuvan Tribe - Kerala

### MUTHUVAN TRIBE



The Muthuvan people live on the border hill forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. They are found in the Adimali and Devikulam forest regions of Idukki district. The highest concentration of these people is on the Anamudi hills, the highest peak of the Western Gats. There are two different groups among the Muthuvan and they speak slightly two different dialects. Hence they call each other as Malayalam Muthuvan and Pandi Muthuvan. The Malayalam or Nadan Muthuvan are seen in the Adimali areas and the Tamil or Pandi Muthuvan are found in the Munnar and Devikulam areas.

Muthuvan must have migrated from the plains most likely from Madurai. The root word Muthuku means the back of the body. It is said that when they migrated to the hills they carried their children and their belongings on the back. Even today, Muthuvan carry their children on their back.

The Muthuvan huts are made of reeds and thatched with its leaves. Some house walls are paneled with wooden braches and mud applied on it. The huts have two separations, one for cooking and common uses and the other for sleeping. The forest and the brooks make their toilets or bathrooms.

Muthuvan gather food and forest products available. Honey, natural spices and some wild flowers called pathiri are the commonly available products. After the pongal( a regional seedling festival) celebration and a special worship for the purpose, they go in teams to the interior forest. This will be for days and weeks together during the three months beginning from March.

- ❖ A three-day Muthuvan tribal convention was held at Chempakathozukudy near Suryanelli in Munnar.
- ❖ It was organised by the Muthuvan Adivasi Samudaya Sangam to protect tribal language and culture.
- ❖ The Muthuvans, or Mudugars community resolved to continue using the tribal language.
- ❖ Around 25,000 Muthuvan people live in Idukki, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts.
- ❖ There are two different groups among the Muthuvan as Malayalam Muthuvan and Pandi Muthuvan.
- ❖ The Muthuvan adhere to community endogamy and clan exogamy.
- ❖ They follow a unique system of governance called the 'Kani System'.
- ❖ Virippukrishi, a form of shifting cultivation, is their traditional means of livelihood.

