

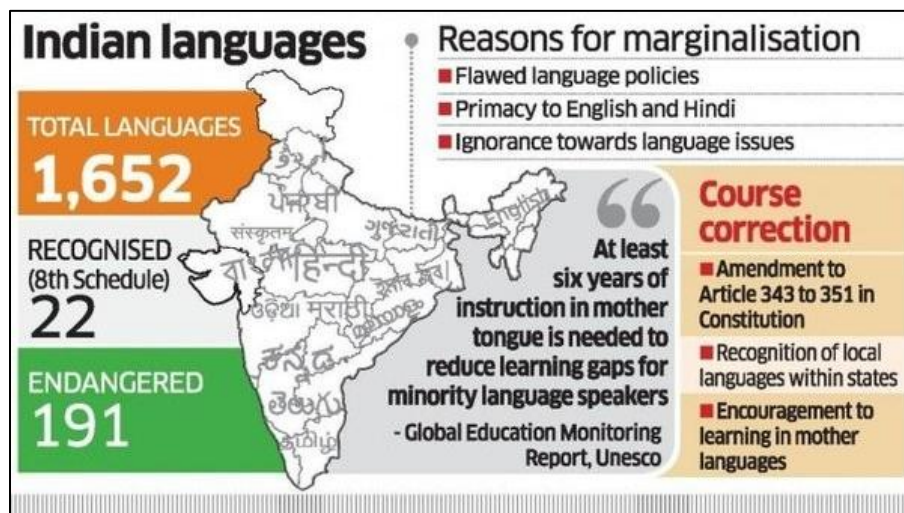
August - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hindustan Zinc Limited, India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, is the first Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals.
- ❖ DPIIT and Zepto signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support early-stage manufacturing startups through a 6-month programme called Zepto Nova.
  - The initiative will focus on hardware, Internet of Things (IoT), packaging, and sustainable manufacturing with mentorship, Startup India support, and market access for over 100 startups.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Toda Language conservation



- ❖ Kurtaz Vasamalli (66) is leading efforts to preserve Toda through oral tradition documentation and literacy promotion.
- ❖ The Toda language is a proto-South Dravidian language with no native script and is spoken by a few thousand people in the Nilgiri hills.
- ❖ A Toda primer using Tamil script was developed in collaboration with the Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL).
- ❖ The SPPEL is run by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) under the Ministry of Education to document endangered Indian languages.
- ❖ CIIL uses audio-video tools and linguistic software to create digital archives and dictionaries for languages like Toda.



- ❖ The Sanchika website hosts Toda language samples and audio files for public access.

### **Kuruvai Crop Coverage 2025**

- ❖ The Cauvery delta has achieved its highest-ever Kuruvai paddy crop coverage this year.
- ❖ The coverage as of August 10 is 6.09 lakh acres.
- ❖ The normal Kuruvai coverage in the delta is 4.4 lakh acres.
- ❖ This year's coverage is about 40 percent higher than the normal extent.
- ❖ Last year, the delta had only around 3.88 lakh acres under Kuruvai cultivation.
- ❖ This year's coverage is approximately 57 percent higher than last year's.
- ❖ The previous record was 5.6 lakh acres during the 2023 to 2024 season.
- ❖ Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts have contributed nearly two lakh acres each.

Paddy coverage during Kar/Kuruvai Sornavari (KKS) in 2025-26 (in acres) Delta (Kuruvai)			
District	2025	2024	
Cuddalore		29,363	26,488
Tiruchi		13,170	13,086
Ariyalur		9,196	7,054
Thanjavur		194,283	141,385
Nagapattinam		74,636	4,261
Mayiladuthurai		96,703	96,836
Tiruvarur		191,603	98,622
<b>Delta total</b>		<b>608,954</b>	<b>387,733</b>

### **Welfare Schemes for Conservancy Workers**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved 6 welfare schemes for conservancy workers on August 14.
- ❖ The Free breakfast will be provided by the urban local bodies starting with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).
- ❖ ₹10 lakh insurance cover will be given for accidental death during the work, increased from ₹5 lakh.
- ❖ 35% subsidy up to ₹3.50 lakh and 6% interest subsidy will be offered for the entrepreneurship.
- ❖ ₹10 crore will be allocated annually for entrepreneurship scheme.
- ❖ 30,000 houses will be built in 3 years in urban areas for workers without homes.

- ❖ Children of workers will receive support for hostel and book fees, along with the higher education aid.

## ரூ.3.50 லட்சம் மானியம்!





**தூய்மை பணியாளர்கள் சுய தொழில்  
தொடங்கும் போது அவர்களுக்கு ரூ.3.50 லட்சம்  
வரை மானியமாக வழங்கப்படும்**  
- தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அறிவிப்பு

### New Schemes announcements on August 15



#### மத்திய அரசின் வளர்ச்சியை காட்டிலும் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வளர்ச்சி அதிகம்

- விடுதலை போராட்ட வீரர்களுக்கான ஓய்வூதியம் ரூ.22 ஆயிரமாக உயர்த்தப்படும்.
- விடுதலை போராட்ட தியாகிகள் குடும்ப ஓய்வூதியம் ரூ.12 ஆயிரமாக உயர்த்தப்படும்.
- தமிழ்நாட்டின் மலைப்பகுதிகளில் கட்டணமில்லா விடயல் பயணத்திட்டம் மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு விரிவுபடுத்தப்படும்.
- சுதந்திர போராட்டத்தை பெருமைபடுத்தும் ஏராளமான நினைவுச் சின்னங்கள் தி.மு.க ஆட்சியில் அமைக்கப்பட்டன.
- மத்திய அரசின் வளர்ச்சியை காட்டிலும் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வளர்ச்சி அதிகமாக உள்ளது.
- நிலையான வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளுக்கான குறியீட்டில் தமிழ்நாடு 788 புள்ளிகளுடன் இந்தியாவில் 2வது இடத்தில் உள்ளது.
- சமூக முன்னேற்றக் குறியீடுகளில் பெரிய மாநிலங்களோடு ஒப்பிடுகையில் தமிழ்நாடு 63.33 புள்ளிகள் பெற்று தேசிய அளவில் முதலிடம்.
- தமிழகத்தில் 1.43 சதவீத மக்கள் தான் வறுமை கோட்டுக்கு கீழ் உள்ளனர்.
- ரூ.10 லட்சம் கோடி முதலீடுகள் பெற்று 30 லட்சம் பேருக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு உருவாக்கியுள்ளோம்.
- ஸ்டார்ட் அப் தரவரிசை பட்டியலில் பெஸ்ட் பெர்ஃபார்மர்-ஆக தமிழகம் உள்ளது.
- ஏற்றுமதியில் இந்தியாவிலேயே 80.89 புள்ளிகளுடன் தமிழகம் முதலிடம்.

முதலமைச்சர்கள் தேசியக் கொடி ஏற்றும் உரிமையை பெற்றுத் தந்தவர் கலைஞர் - முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின்



- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM respondent the Union government of encroaching on State rights.

- ❖ CM called for a Constitutional remedy to restore true federalism and protect State autonomy.
- ❖ Welfare Announcements (9 Key Initiatives):
  - Free bus travel for persons with disabilities has been extended to hilly areas.
  - Free bus travel expanded to ex-servicemen and children of construction workers.
  - A ₹22 crore hostel for Tamil Nadu's ex-servicemen is to be built in Madhavaram, Chennai.
  - ₹15 crore skill training program for college-going children of registered construction workers.
  - Monthly aid for World War II ex-servicemen has been raised to ₹15,000.
  - Monthly pension for freedom fighters increased to ₹22,000.
  - Pension for families of freedom fighters increased to ₹12,000.
  - A driving school will be established in each district.
  - Two regional driving academies and one State-level driving academy to be launched.

### **Independence Day Awards 2025**



- ❖ IUML leader K.M. Kadhar Mohideen received the Thagaisal Thamizhar Award.
- ❖ ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan received the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award.
- ❖ Thulasimathi Murugesan, Arjuna Awardee, received the Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise.



- ❖ In recognition of outstanding investigative work and dedicated service, the Tamil Nadu government has announced special medals for 15 police officers.
- ❖ Awardees include officers like Inspector Purani (Cyber Crime, Chennai), Inspector Latha (Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Chennai), and DSP Kalpana dath (Thanjavur Crime Division).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day highlights



- ❖ PM Narendra Modi has addressed the nation from the Red Fort for the 12th consecutive time.
- ❖ The theme for this year's celebration is 'Naya Bharat'
- ❖ He is surpassing the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's record for the most successive August 15 addresses.
- ❖ He stands next only to Jawaharlal Nehru, who delivered 17 Independence Day addresses.
- ❖ Modi broke his 98-minute record from the 78th Independence Day last year.
- ❖ It was lasting 103 minutes, longest so far, charting a roadmap for a Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- ❖ It was the longest speech by any prime minister in India's history.

- ❖ He was emphasizing that India's progress is built on self-reliance, innovation, and citizen empowerment.
- ❖ PM urges traders to promote Swadeshi products in their stores.
- ❖ Other significant announcements:
  - India will become a developed nation by 2047, PM reaffirms.
  - Next-gen GST reforms to be rolled out by Diwali 2025.
  - GST overhaul aims to reduce tax on daily-use items for all citizens.
  - 280 outdated laws repealed or amended for the public good.
  - Mission Sudarshan Chakra launched for advanced defence capabilities.
  - All public places to be covered under the nationwide security shield by 2035.
  - “Daam kam, par dum zyada” – promote affordable but high-quality products.

### OCI Card rules 2025

## Who is an Overseas Citizen of India?

**A foreign national, -**

- (i) who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after 26th January, 1950; or
- (ii) who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January, 1950; or
- (iii) who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; or
- (iv) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or
- (v) who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above; or
- (vi) who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India

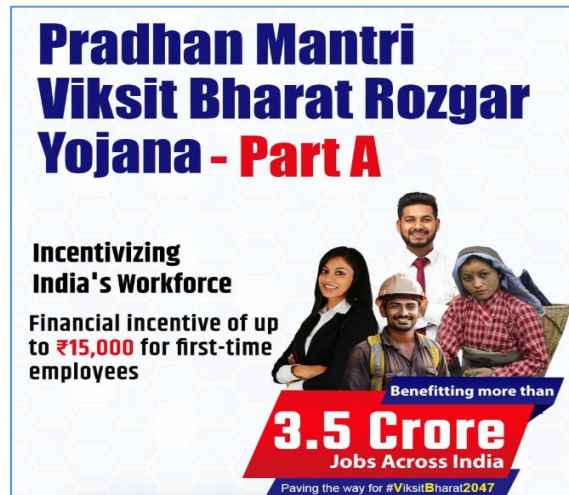


- ❖ India has tightened its Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card rules, which allow the Indian-origin foreign nationals to visit India without any visa.
- ❖ The OCI registration of individuals will be liable for cancellation if convicted of a serious criminal offence or formally charge-sheeted in cases involving the grave charges.
- ❖ The Ministry specified two key grounds for cancellation:

- If an OCI cardholder is sentenced to imprisonment for a term of two years or more, and
- If they are charge-sheeted for an offence that carries a punishment of seven years or more.
- ❖ The OCI card scheme was launched in 2005 by the Government of India to offer benefits to persons of Indian origin.
- ❖ The OCI cardholders receive a multiple-entry, multi-purpose lifelong visa to visit India.
- ❖ They are exempt from registration with the local police regardless of the duration of stay in India.
- ❖ Cardholders enjoy parity with Non-Resident Indians in financial, economic, and educational matters, excluding ownership of agricultural or plantation land.

### **PM-VBRY**

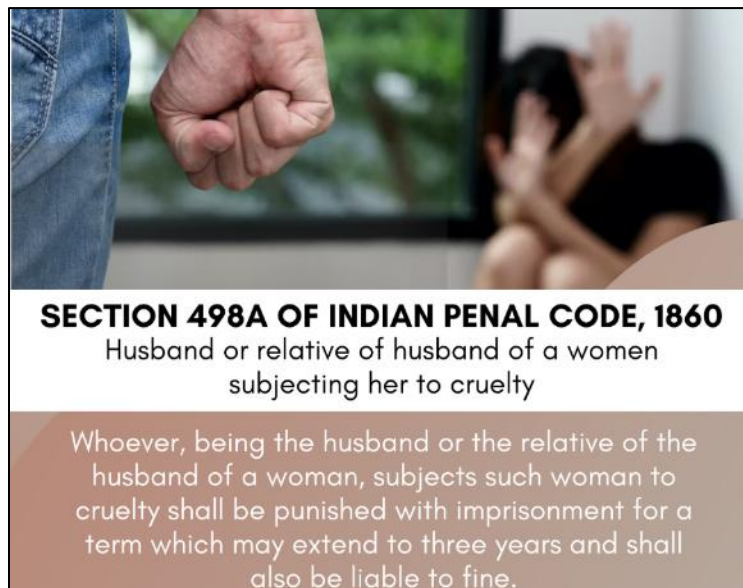
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) was announced on August 15, 2025.
- ❖ This scheme aims to create 3.5 crore jobs in two years.
- ❖ ₹15,000 to be provided by the Centre to first-time private sector job seekers.
- ❖ It also provides up to 3000 per month per new employee to employers for creation new job opportunities.



### **Remarks on Section 498-A IPC**

- ❖ Bombay High Court quashed a 498-A case filed against husband and his family members.

- ❖ Remarks on wife's clothes or cooking do not constitute 'grave cruelty' under 498-A IPC.
- ❖ Section 498-A IPC requires evidence of the serious cruelty, not minor domestic disputes.
- ❖ Section 498-A was introduced in 1983 to combat the cruelty against women in a marriage.
- ❖ It covers acts like dowry harassment, physical and mental torture, and driving a woman to suicide or injury.
- ❖ The law aims to protect women from domestic violence and ensure their safety.
- ❖ It carries a punishment of up to three years imprisonment and a fine.
- ❖ Conviction rates under this section stand at about 18%, higher than many other crimes.



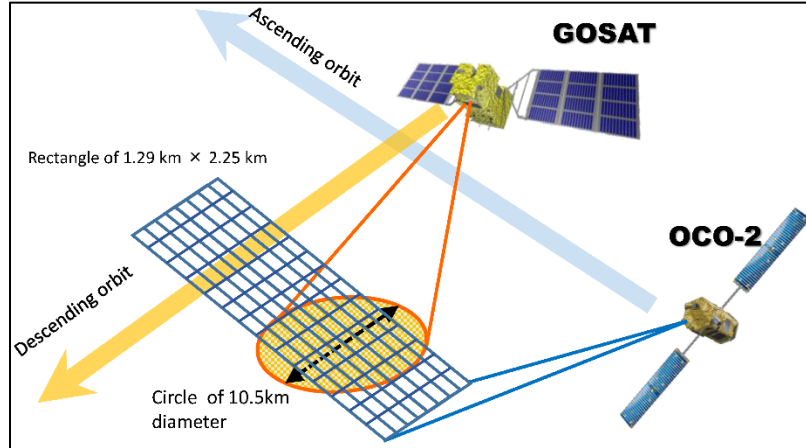
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### NASA's OCO-2 Mission

- ❖ NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory 2 (OCO-2) satellite has been operational since 2014.
- ❖ The satellite provides the key data for the climate change research, including CO<sub>2</sub> emission tracking, crop monitoring, and supporting the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The Trump administration has reportedly instructed NASA to prepare termination plans for OCO-2 and OCO-3 instruments despite ongoing operations.



- ❖ OCO-2 would be destroyed if decommissioned, as it would burn up in Earth's atmosphere with no recovery option.
- ❖ NASA is exploring private funding to continue OCO-3 operations on the International Space Station (ISS) until the ISS mission ends.



## Metop-SGA1 Satellite



- ❖ Metop Second Generation A1 (Metop-SGA1) was successfully launched on from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou on an Ariane-62 rocket.
- ❖ It is the first satellite under the EUMETSAT Polar System Second Generation (EPS-SG).

- ❖ It will operate in a polar orbit at 800 kilometres above Earth.
- ❖ The satellite carries 6 advanced instruments along with the Copernicus Sentinel-5 mission to collect high-resolution weather and atmospheric data.
- ❖ Metop-SGA1 will improve short- and medium-term forecasts and early warnings for extreme weather events.
- ❖ The satellite will orbit Earth 14 times daily and deliver global coverage to support climate action and air quality monitoring.

## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Freshwater Crabs in Western Ghats**

- ❖ Two new species of freshwater crabs from the Gecarcinucidae family have been discovered in Kerala.
- ❖ *Kasargodia sheebae*, a new genus and species, was found in a mountain stream at Ranipuram Hill Station in Kasaragod district.
- ❖ *Pilarta vaman*, a small-sized species named after the Hindu deity Vaman, was found in a stream at Gavi in Pathanamthitta district.
- ❖ The crabs are rare and face threats from human activity, mainly due to increasing tourist flow to their habitats.



### **Parthenium weed eradication**

- ❖ Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam began a campaign to remove *Parthenium* weed from its grasslands.

- ❖ *Parthenium hysterophorus* is an invasive plant believed to have entered India through contaminated wheat imports from the United States over 70 years ago.
- ❖ The plant threatens biodiversity and causes health issues such as skin allergies and fever, while reducing grass availability for rhinos.

### Management

Parthenium is a difficult plant to manage since removal by hand causes skin irritation. Burning is not recommended because the residues are harmful to other plants. Other methods, e.g., chemical control using herbicides and biological control using insects have not proved effective.



## STATES' NEWS

### New Defence Industrial Corridors in 2025



- ❖ The Government of India plans to establish two defence industrial corridors in Maharashtra and Assam.

- ❖ This move follows the two existing corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu,
- ❖ The initiative aims to boost Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) by promoting indigenous defence manufacturing.
- ❖ India's annual defence production hit an all-time high of ₹1,50,590 crore in FY 2024–25.

### **Legalization of Bull Fighting**

- ❖ Goa legislators across party lines have demanded legal status for the bull fighting, citing its cultural significance.
- ❖ It is locally known as dhirio.
- ❖ The Bull fights in Goa involve two trained bulls locking horns without human participants.
- ❖ They were once common during church feasts and harvest celebrations.
- ❖ The High Court of Bombay at Goa banned bullfights in 1996 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but the practice continues clandestinely.
- ❖ The Recent cases of bull and human deaths during fights and increasing illegal betting have renewed the debate over legalisation and safety.

