

August - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Rohith Krishna S, a 19-year-old from Chennai, has become India's 89th Grand master.
- ❖ Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad will set up southern India's first in-house Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory for animal disease diagnosis and research.
- ❖ Assam's 'Operation Falcon', launched jointly by police and forest department in 2024, has successfully curbed poaching of one-horned rhinos.
- ❖ BSF Meghalaya Frontier launched 'Operation Alert' along the India-Bangladesh border with State Police to ensure foolproof security before Independence Day.
- ❖ India's U20 women's football team defeated Myanmar to qualify for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2026 after 20 years.
- ❖ BEML Limited wins its first overseas rail-metro contract from Malaysia worth USD 1 million for retrofit and reconditioning of Mass Rapid Transport System.
- ❖ The Nagpur-Pune Vande Bharat Express covers the longest route in India, connecting key stations including Wardha, Akola, Bhusawal, and Daund.
- ❖ Fresh apricots from Kargil, Ladakh, were launched in Saudi Arabia for the first time at Lulu Hypermarket in Riyadh during India's 79th Independence Day, marking a boost in India-Saudi agricultural trade.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

JE Vaccination Expansion

Protection and Prevention is the key to fight against Japanese Encephalitis (JE)




 Keep pig shelters far from human habitation	 Insecticidal Spray (fogging)	 Keep your house and surroundings clean	 JE vaccination to children aged 1-15 years
 Don't allow stagnation of water	 Sleep under mosquito net	 Wear full sleeve clothes	



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Health Department has expanded the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination programme to 7 more districts.
- ❖ A total of 27,63,152 children aged 1 to 15 years will be covered with a single dose of JE vaccine.
- ❖ The campaign will be conducted in government and government-aided schools anganwadi centres orphanages and juvenile homes.
- ❖ JE is a mosquito borne zoonotic viral disease that affects the central nervous system and can lead to severe complications or death.
- ❖ JE vaccination has been implemented since 2007 in 15 endemic revenue districts.
- ❖ The programme is now being expanded to cover seven additional districts: Chennai (excluding the two already covered zones), Chengalpattu, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, and Vellore.

HAWK system

Feature	Description
System Type	Cloud-Based Information Management System
Purpose	Manage interlinked databases of wildlife crime, wildlife criminals, and wildlife mortality
Objective	Prevent wildlife crimes and curb Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT)
Connectivity	Real-time connection with entire state forest department
Access Control	Access restricted through access levels
 HAWK Hostile Activity Watch Kernel	
Interface	Mobile and desktop interfaces
Modularity	Divided into various interconnected modules with stand-alone functions
Scalability	Scalable system to meet the needs of state forest departments, customizable for each state's procedures and regional language interface
Data Security	Government and industry standard security measures applied to ensure data security
Development	Started in 2017 by a joint team of Kerala Forest Department & Wildlife Trust of India
Launch	Officially launched in 2019 in Kerala; now the official system of the state forest department
Implementation	Customized version initiated in 2022 in Karnataka in partnership with Karnataka forest department ICT cell, being implemented statewide

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Forest Department has launched HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel), a digital wildlife crime tracking system.
- ❖ It is the 3rd state after Kerala and Karnataka to adopt HAWK, developed by WTI (Wildlife Trust of India) and NTT DATA.
- ❖ Modules include Peregrine (crime management), Shikra (mortality reporting), Harrier (offender tracking), and Kestrel (legacy data).
- ❖ HAWK features NER (Named Entity Recognition), network analysis, and predictive modelling for hotspot detection.

- ❖ It supports the API (Application Programming Interface) integration with CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems).


e-Shram registrations



- ❖ Tamil Nadu achieves only 43% of e-Shram target with 93.13 lakh registrations against 2.17 crore's goal.
- ❖ The e-Shram portal was launched by the Union government in August 2021.
- ❖ It brings the platform workers, gig workers, and temporary labourers into a centralised welfare framework.
- ❖ Enrolled individuals become eligible for government-backed benefits including ₹5 lakh medical cover under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme.
- ❖ Female registrations (59.4 lakh) outnumber males (33.7 lakh) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks below top 10 states in total e-Shram registrations.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the top state in e-Shram registrations, surpassing its target with 8.39 crore workers registered against a target of 6.66 crore.

Over 27 lakh
unorganized workers
registered on e-Shram portal

Helping Government focus on targeted & last mile delivery of welfare schemes for unorganized workers

Benefits to Registered workers include:

- ₹ Rs 2 Lakh Accidental Insurance Cover
-  Universal Account Number to help in portability of social security schemes, Ration Cards etc.



NATIONAL NEWS

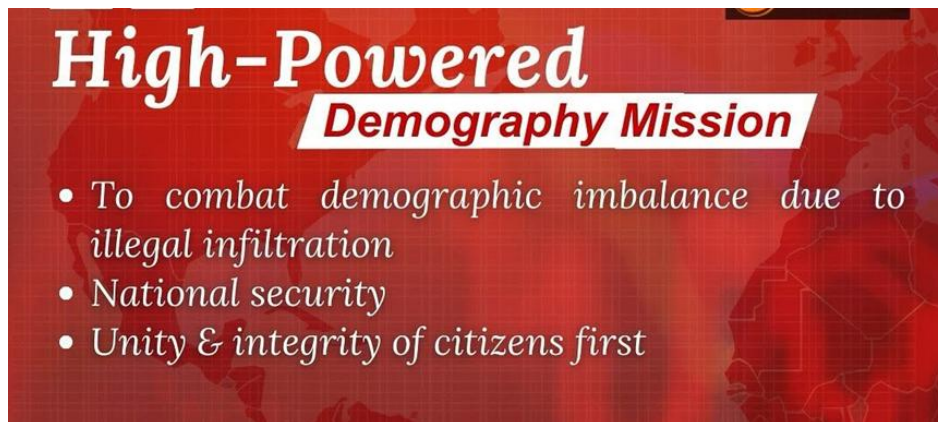
Longest-serving Union Home Minister

- ❖ Amit Shah becomes the longest-serving Union Home Minister on August 5, 2025, with six years and 65 days in office.
- ❖ He surpasses BJP veteran L. K. Advani's record.

- ❖ Key decisions during his tenure include abrogation of Article 370 and successful anti-Maoist operations.



Demographic Mission 2025



- ❖ On August 15, 2025, India announced a mission for demographic threat from the illegal infiltrators ("Ghuspaithiyas").
- ❖ A high-powered demographic mission will be launched to tackle this crisis within a fixed timeframe.
- ❖ These infiltrators are reported to affect jobs, target women, and seize tribal lands.
- ❖ Demographic shifts in border areas raise national security and social tension concerns.
- ❖ The government aims to safeguard national unity, integrity, and progress from infiltration.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- ❖ India will develop an indigenous air defence system under Mission Sudarshan Chakra by 2035.
- ❖ The system will provide protection to strategic and civilian areas like hospitals, railways, and places of worship.
- ❖ The mission is named after Lord Krishna's mythological shield, the Sudarshan Chakra.
- ❖ The aim is to expand, strengthen, and modernise the national security shield within ten years.
- ❖ At present, India has three S-400 missile systems imported from Russia.

Sudarshan Chakra:
INDIA'S NEXT-GEN DEFENCE SHIELD

By 2035, every critical site, from hospitals to railways, temples to military hubs, to be under an unbreachable, tech-driven security cover.

Inspired by Lord Krishna's **Sudarshan Chakra**, this indigenous weapon system will:

- Neutralise enemy attacks** and strike back with greater force
- Predict future threats** with advanced AI-led strategy
- Deliver precision-targeted action** and return safely



5,000 m Atlantic dive

Nautile Dives – Deepest Indian Aquanauts Feat



6,000m rated, endurance of 6 hours, dimensions 8x3.8m, Ht: 2.7m.

NIOT crew Successfully dived to 4025m & 5002m, in two different campaigns

- ❖ Two Indian aquanauts dived to depths of 4,025 and 5,002 meters in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ The dives were conducted using the French submersible Nautille in collaboration with IFREMER, France.
- ❖ India now joins fewer than six nations capable of manned dives beyond 5,000 meters.
- ❖ The mission is a prelude to India's Samudrayan Mission aiming to reach 6,000 meters by 2027.
- ❖ The MATSYA-6000 submersible will carry three Indian aquanauts to 6,000 meters under the Deep Ocean Mission.

ECONOMY NEWS

GST restructuration

Rate revisions


The 12% and 28% GST slabs will be done away with soon. Of these, 99% of items currently in the 12% slab will be moved to the 5% rate and 90% of goods and services in the 28% bracket will move to 18% slab

CURRENT SLABS

- 0.25% (diamonds & semi-precious stones)
- 3% (jewellery & precious metals)
- Apart from these, the slabs were 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% and compensation cess

PROPOSED SLABS

- Less than 1% (only items earlier in 0.25% and 3% slabs)
- Apart from this, the main slabs will be 5%, 18%, with a 40% rate applicable on only five to seven 'sin' goods



- ❖ The Finance Ministry has proposed a simplified two-tier GST system with "standard" and "merit" slabs.
- ❖ Special rates will be maintained for select goods outside the two primary slabs.
- ❖ There are plans to reduce GST on common household and aspirational goods to boost affordability and consumption.
- ❖ The end of the compensation cess has created fiscal space for rate rationalisation.
- ❖ The proposal aims to correct inverted duty structures to reduce the accumulation of input tax credit.
- ❖ The current four-tier system is 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.

- ❖ Only 5% and 18% slabs will be retained.
- ❖ It would entail entirely doing away with the 12% and 28% tax brackets.
- ❖ A lower concessional rate below 1% and a high “sin rate” of 40% on just five to seven items each will be introduced.
- ❖ 99% of items currently in the 12% slab will be moved to the 5% rate and 90% of goods and services in the 28% bracket will move to 18%.
- ❖ There will be no cess of any kind over and above the GST rates.

Wholesale Price Index 2025

JULY WPI DATA		
July WPI Inflation At -0.58% Vs -0.13% (MoM)		
SEGMENT	JULY	JUNE
Food	-2.15%	-0.26%
Fuel & Power	-2.43%	-2.65%
Manufactured Pdts	2.05%	1.97%
Primary Articles	-4.95%	-3.38%
Potato	-41.26%	-32.67%
Onion	-44.38%	-33.49%
Eggs, Meat & Fish	-1.09%	-0.29%
Vegetables	-28.96%	-22.65%

- ❖ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation remained in the negative zone for the second consecutive month at - 0.58% in July 2025.
- ❖ In June 2025, WPI inflation stood at - 0.13%, while it was 2.10% in July 2024.
- ❖ Food articles recorded a deflation of 6.29% in July, compared to 3.75% in June.
- ❖ Vegetables saw a sharp price drop, with the deflation at 28.96% in July, against 22.65% in June.
- ❖ Inflation in manufactured products increased slightly to 2.05% in July, from 1.97% in June.
- ❖ Fuel and power recorded a deflation of 2.43% in July, compared to 2.65% in the previous month.



- ❖ Retail inflation in July dropped to an 8-year low of 1.55%.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the benchmark policy rate unchanged at 5.5% earlier in August.

STATES' NEWS

Kerala State Financial Enterprises

- ❖ Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) became the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to cross ₹1 lakh crore business turnover.
- ❖ KSFE doubled its business from ₹50,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore in four years.
- ❖ The company posted a profit of ₹512 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- ❖ KSFE provided ₹504 crore in financial assistance through interest waivers and contributed ₹920 crore to the Kerala state government.
- ❖ KSFE holds fixed deposits worth approximately ₹8,925 crore in the state treasury.
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister has inaugurated the celebrations and unveiled KSFE's new tagline: "KSFE: The Courage of Kerala."



Disha Abhiyan

- ❖ Maharashtra has implemented Disha Abhiyan in 453 special schools.
- ❖ It provides the uniform and high-quality education for students with intellectual disabilities.
- ❖ The curriculum was developed by Jai Vakil Foundation and approved by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID).

- ❖ Maharashtra is the first state in India to adopt such a comprehensive curriculum for this group.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gallantry and Service Medals 2025



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu approved 127 gallantry awards and 40 distinguished service awards on August 14, 2025.
- ❖ Operation Sindoor personnel have received 16 Shaurya Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 4 Kirti Chakras and numerous Sena, Nao Sena, and Vayu Sena Medals.
- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) won 23 gallantry medals, the highest among Central Armed Police Forces.

- ❖ These include 3 Shaurya Chakras and 20 gallantry medals for valour in Jammu & Kashmir and anti-Maoist operations.
- ❖ BSF Sub-Inspector Mohd Imteyaj and Constable Deepak Chingakham were posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra for exceptional courage and leadership.
- ❖ Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals went to top military leaders like Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai and Air Marshals Narmadeshwar Tiwari, Nagesh Kapoor, Jeetandra Mishra, and A.K. Bharti.

L. Ganesan demise

- ❖ L. Ganesan, Governor of Nagaland and former BJP vice-president, passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ He earlier served as Governor of Manipur and held additional charge as Governor of West Bengal (WB).
- ❖ He played key roles in BJP's growth in TN and was elected to the Rajya Sabha from MP.
- ❖ He also served as editor of Ore Naadu and founded Pottramarai to support Tamil scholars.



SPORTS NEWS

Asian Boxing Championships 2025

- ❖ India secured 27 medals at the Asian Under-19 (U19) and Under-22 (U22) Boxing Championships 2025 held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The U19 team won 14 medals including 3 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze finishing second overall.

- ❖ The U22 team earned 13 medals including 1 gold, 4 silver, and 8 bronze.
- ❖ Ritika won gold in the women's 80-plus kilogram (kg) category and was the only U22 gold medalist.
- ❖ The other Notable medalists: Yatri Patel (silver in women's 57 kg), Priya (silver in women's 60 kg), Neeraj (silver in men's 75 kg), and Ishan Kataria (silver in men's 90-plus kg).



Khelo India ASMITA



- ❖ The Khelo India ASMITA Football League 2025-26 was launched by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and Sports in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

- ❖ The initiative promotes affirmative action in sports by increasing women's participation and identifying talent among girls under 13 years of age.
- ❖ The league aims to include players from tribal and minority communities and offers a platform for both beginners and skilled athletes.
- ❖ The event aligns with the government's vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' to ensure inclusive development through sports.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Nüshu Script

- ❖ Nüshu is a 400-year-old women's only script from Jiangyong in Hunan province in China.
- ❖ It is witnessing a revival among Gen Z Chinese women who see it as a symbol of sisterhood and empowerment.
- ❖ Nüshu is a 17th century phonetic script created by women as a secret system of communication.
- ❖ The script uses slender curved leaf-shaped characters based on the local dialect and was shared through letters songs and embroidery.
- ❖ It emerged during a time when women were excluded from formal education and became a symbol of sisterhood and resilience.

