



August - 19

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bengaluru's Yellow Line expands Namma Metro to 96 km, making it the second-largest metro network in India after Delhi Metro's 353.3 km.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways launched the FASTag Annual Pass on 15 August 2025, offering private vehicles up to 200 toll crossings or one year of travel at ₹3,000.
- ❖ The sixth round of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) talks ended without an agreement.
  - The talks were held in Geneva to draft a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### VETRI Palligal

**ரூ.54.7 கோடி ஒதுக்கீடு..!**

தமிழகத்தில் 236 அரசு மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கான வெற்றி பள்ளிகள் திட்டத்துக்கு முதல் கட்டமாக ரூ.54.7 கோடி நிதி ஒதுக்கீடு; 11 மற்றும் 12ம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள் உயர்கல்வி நிறுவனங்களில் சேரும் வகையிலும், தொழில் ஆலோசனை வழங்கவும் பள்ளிக் கல்வித் துறை திட்டம்

- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt. Sanctioned ₹54.73 crore for VETRI (Vibrant Education Targeting Reputed Institution) Palligal in 236 govt. Higher secondary schools for 2025-26.
- ❖ One school per block will be chosen as VETRI Palligal to guide Class 11 and 12 students towards top institutions.
- ❖ Weekend coaching for JEE, NEET, CLAT, and CUET will be held for volunteer students.
- ❖ Each block will have 2 govt. Teachers and 4 temp teachers handling sessions on alternate weekends.

- ❖ District model schools will support with study materials, online classes, and career guidance.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Tap Water and Groundwater Coverage

- ❖ As of now, over 15.68 crore rural households (81% of 19.36 crore) have functional tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- ❖ At the time of JJM launch in 2019, only 3.23 crore (17%) rural households had tap water connections.
- ❖ JJM ensures water quality and supply through monitoring tools such as Aadhaar-linked beneficiary data, geo-tagging, third-party inspections, and IoT-based water measurement.
- ❖ The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) addresses groundwater depletion in 8,203 water-stressed gram panchayats across 229 blocks in seven states with a budget of ₹6,000 crore.
- ❖ So far, groundwater levels have improved in 83 identified blocks under ABY's participatory, performance-based approach.



### Defence Exports in FY 2024-25

- ❖ Defence exports reached a record ₹23,622 crore (~\$2.76 billion) in FY 2024-25, a 12.04% increase from ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24.

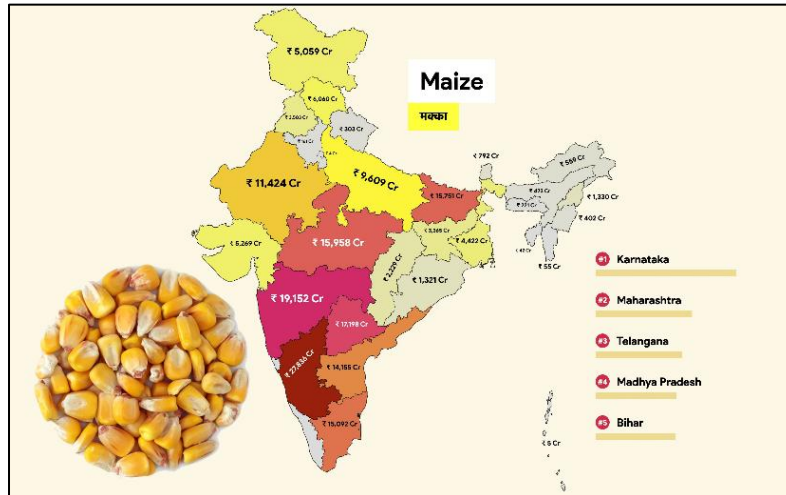
- ❖ This marks a 34-fold increase since ₹686 crore in FY 2013-14.
- ❖ India exports defence products to around 80 countries and aims for ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029.
- ❖ The private sector contributed ₹15,233 crore, and DPSUs contributed ₹8,389 crore in FY 2024-25.
- ❖ Defence Public Sector Undertakings' exports grew by 42.85% compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Issued 1,762 export authorisations in FY 2024-25, up 16.92% from 1,507 the previous year.
- ❖ Defence exporters increased by 17.4% in FY 2024-25.



### Maize cultivation coverage

- ❖ Maize cultivation in India rose to 91.89 lakh hectares in the 2025-26 kharif season, up from 83.15 lakh hectares last year.
- ❖ This 10.5 per cent rise is driven by the E20 ethanol-blending program, boosting maize demand and prices.
- ❖ Maize became the top ethanol feedstock in 2023-24, contributing 42.74 per cent of total ethanol production.
- ❖ This shift has reduced land for oilseeds by about 7 lakh hectares and tur by over 2 lakh hectares, raising food and nutrition concerns.

- ❖ Poultry and cattle feed sectors face tight supply, as they consume 60 to 70 per cent of India's maize.
- ❖ Sugarcane area also increased by 1.64 lakh hectares due to ethanol-linked incentives, while soybean area declined.




## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Alaska summit

**Key takeaways from the Trump-Putin Alaska Summit:**

- Talks labeled **'productive'** with **no achievements**
- **Trump** says, **'very good chance'** to resolve disagreements
- **Putin** stresses Russia's **national interests**
- **Next meeting** could be in **Moscow**
- Possible **three-way meeting with Zelenskyy** uncertain



- ❖ India endorsed the 2025 Alaska summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ The summit aimed at to help end the conflict in Ukraine.

- ❖ But there is no fruitful outcome reached regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict

## Palestine recognition - Australia

- ❖ Australia will recognise the state of Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly in September.
- ❖ This move follows similar decisions made by Spain, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and New Zealand.
- ❖ Recognition is based on commitments from the Palestinian Authority to demilitarise, hold general elections, and recognise Israel's right to exist.
- ❖ A total of 147 out of 193 United Nations member states currently recognise the state of Palestine.



## Global Outlook Council on Water Investments (GOCWI)

- ❖ South African President Cyril Ramaphosa launched GOCWI and invited the Indian PM and other global leaders to join as council members.
- ❖ GOCWI, a G20 initiative, aims to prioritise water investment in global climate and finance discussions.
- ❖ It will track progress, unlock finance, and align actions across G20, UN, MDBs, and the private sector.

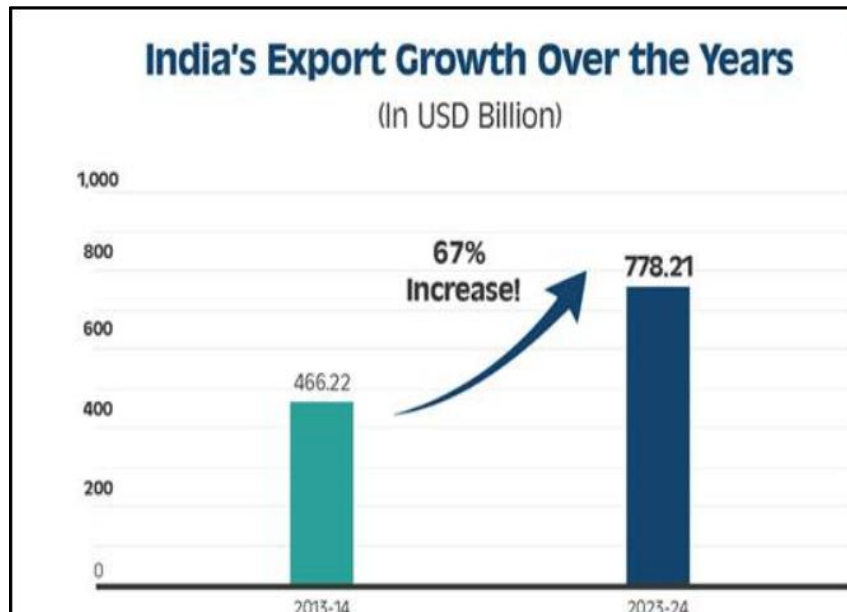


- ❖ The Africa Water Investment Programme (AWIP) will now scale into a Global Water Investment Platform (GWIP).
- ❖ The launch took place during the Africa Water Investment Summit 2025, under South Africa's G20 presidency.
- ❖ Council members include leaders from India, Brazil, the UK, Germany, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Australia, the EU, Angola, and Senegal.



## ECONOMY NEWS

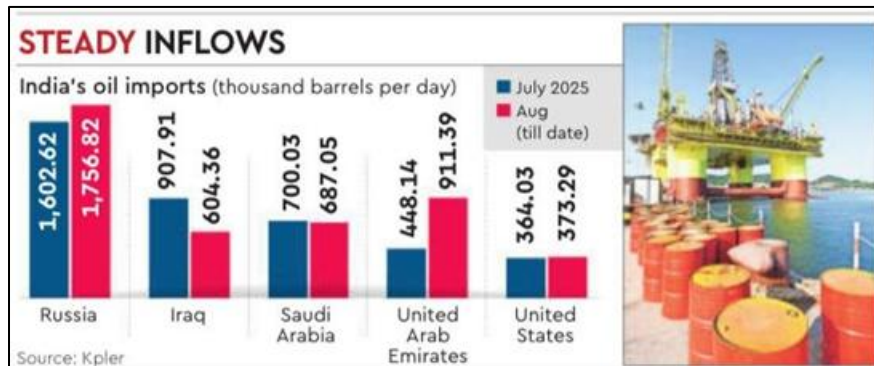
### India's Top Export Countries 2024



- ❖ India's exports reached USD 778.21 billion in 2023–24.

- ❖ This includes merchandise exports worth USD 437.10 billion and services exports of USD 341.11 billion.
- ❖ The export value rose by 67% compared to 2013–14.
- ❖ The United States (USA) was India's top export destination with a 17.90% share.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) followed with 8.23%, and the Netherlands came third at 5.16%.
- ❖ Together, the top 10 countries accounted for 50.98% of India's total exports.
- ❖ North America remained India's leading export region from 2004 to 2024.
- ❖ The rest of the top 10 include China (3.85%), Singapore (3.33%), the UK (3.00%), Saudi Arabia (2.67%), Bangladesh (2.55%), Germany (2.27%), and Italy (2.02%).

### India's oil import



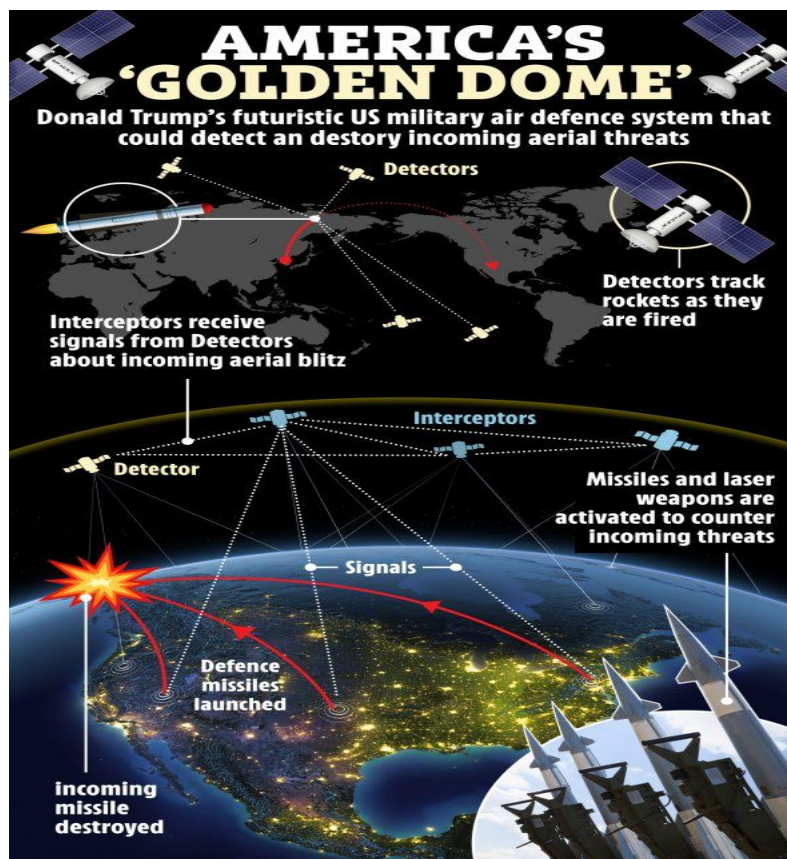
- ❖ India imported 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil in August, up from 1.6 million bpd in July.
- ❖ Russian oil made up 38 per cent of the 5.2 million bpd imported by India in the first half of August.
- ❖ Imports from Iraq fell to 730,000 bpd and Saudi Arabia to 526,000 bpd, down from 700,000 bpd in July.
- ❖ The United States was the fifth largest supplier at 264,000 bpd, as per Kpler data.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Golden Dome Missile Defense Shield

- ❖ Golden Dome (GD) is a U.S. missile defense system designed to protect against enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).
- ❖ The system aims to intercept missiles in the “boost phase”—just after launch—using a network of space-based satellites, interceptors, and possibly lasers.

- ❖ Golden Dome will have four defense layers:
  - Space-based intercept layer using satellites.
  - Enhanced Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system in California and Alaska.
  - Five new land-based launch sites (three in mainland U.S., one in Alaska, one in Hawaii).
  - Limited Area Defense for cities, combining new radars, a common launcher, and systems like the Patriot missile defense.
- ❖ Iron Dome protects small areas from rockets, while GD aspires to nationwide, multi-layered missile interception.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Asiatic Lions population

- ❖ India's Asiatic lion population increased from 674 in 2020 to 891 in 2025, a growth of 32.2%.



- ❖ The number of adult females rose from 260 to 330, improving the species' reproductive strength by 27%.
- ❖ A total of 497 lions now live in satellite populations across nine regions in Gujarat.
- ❖ For the first time, 22 lions were recorded in the corridor areas of Gujarat.
- ❖ The lion population has grown by over 70% in the last ten years.
- ❖ Their habitat range has expanded by nearly 60% during this period.
- ❖ Amreli district (Gujarat) recorded the highest numbers with 82 adult males, 117 adult females, and 79 cubs.
- ❖ Mitiyala Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat) showed the fastest growth at 100%, followed by Bhavnagar Mainland at 84%.
- ❖ Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat) and Bhavnagar Coast (Gujarat) recorded declines of 4% and 12% respectively.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Most Valuable Family Businesses 2025

- ❖ Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses 2025 was released by Barclays Private Clients and Hurun India.



- ❖ The Ambani family of Reliance Industries topped the list for the second consecutive year with a valuation of ₹28.23 lakh crore.
- ❖ The Kumar Mangalam Birla family of Aditya Birla Group secured second place with ₹6.48 lakh crore.
- ❖ The Jindal family of JSW Group entered the top three for the first time (third) with ₹5.71 lakh crore.
- ❖ At the bottom, the Anil Agarwal family (Hindustan Zinc) stood 9th with ₹2.55 lakh crore, and the Dani, Choksi & Vakil families (Asian Paints) 10th with ₹2.21 lakh crore.
- ❖ Total assets of the top 300 Indian family businesses stand at \$1.6 trillion or ₹134 lakh crore, exceeding the GDPs of Turkey and Finland combined.

<b>India's Top 10 Most Valuable Family Businesses in 2025:</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Business Group</b>	<b>Family Name</b>	<b>Valuation (INR, Crore)</b>
1	Reliance Industries Limited	Ambani Family	28,23,100
2	Aditya Birla Group	Kumar Mangalam Birla Family	6,47,700
3	JSW Group	Jindal Family	5,70,900
4	Bajaj Group	Bajaj Family	5,64,200
5	Mahindra Group	Mahindra Family	5,43,800
6	HCL	Nadar Family	4,68,900
7	Cholamandalam Investment & Finance	Murugappa Family	2,92,400
8	Wipro	Premji Family	2,78,600
9	Hindustan Zinc	Anil Agarwal Family	2,55,000

## STATES' NEWS

### Stray dogs in India

- ❖ In 2025, Odisha, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan reported the highest numbers of stray dogs relative to their population, with the highest counts per 1,000 persons.
- ❖ Odisha tops the list with approx. 39–40 stray dogs per 1,000 persons due to poor waste management and lack of sterilisation.
- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has 22.9 stray dogs per 1,000 persons.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has the highest total stray dog population at over 20 lakh, with high density in urban areas.
- ❖ Kerala has about 2.5 lakh stray dogs, with slow progress in sterilisation and vaccination efforts.



## SPORTS NEWS

### Khelo India Water Sports Festival



- ❖ The first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) will be held at Dal Lake, Srinagar.



- ❖ The Himalayan Kingfisher was launched as the mascot, representing adventure, energy, and the spirit of Kashmir.
- ❖ KIWSF will include medal events in rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, along with demo events like water skiing, dragon boat race, and shikara race.
- ❖ This is the second Khelo India event in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), after Gulmarg hosted snow events in the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in March 2025.

