



**August - 22**

## **TNPSC BITS**

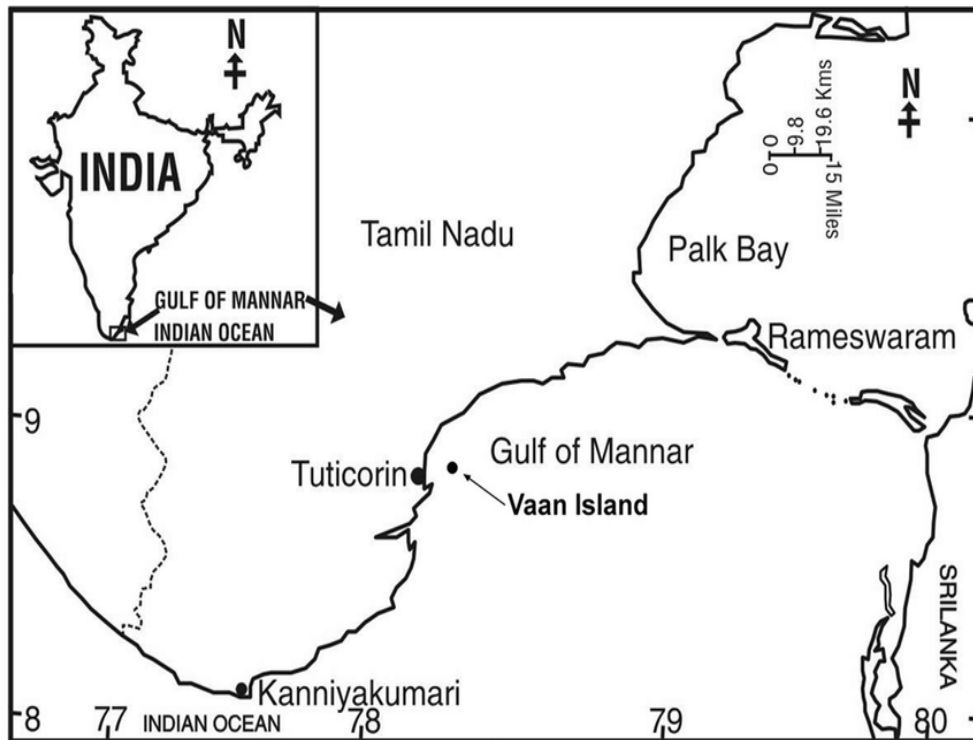
- ❖ Indian Oil Corp. Ltd. became the first Indian company to receive the International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC) under CORSIA for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production at its Panipat refinery, Haryana.
- ❖ Vincent Keymer of Germany won the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025, becoming the first sole champion and entering the world's Top 10 live ratings.
- ❖ The Indian tricolour was hoisted for the first time at Seattle's 605-foot Space Needle on India's 79th Independence Day, marking the first foreign flag raised at the landmark.
- ❖ Rajasthan's Manika Vishwakarma has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025.
- ❖ Foxconn has started iPhone 17 production at its Devanahalli facility near Bengaluru, Karnataka.
  - The unit is Foxconn's second largest outside China, built with a \$2.8 billion (₹25,000 crore) investment.
- ❖ Gugga Naumi is a folk religious festival celebrated across Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh.
  - It is observed on the ninth day of Krishna Paksha in the Bhadrapad month, usually after Janmashtami.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Coral blooms in the Gulf of Mannar**

- ❖ Coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar have been severely damaged by climate change and human activities like coral mining since the 1960s.
- ❖ The Scientists from Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and Tamil Nadu Forest Department have conducted annual underwater coral restoration surveys for over 20 years.
- ❖ A total of 51,183 coral fragments from 20 species were transplanted onto 5,550 artificial substrates.
- ❖ It restored about 40,000 sq. m. of degraded reef area.
- ❖ Survival rates of transplanted corals ranged from 55.6% to 79.5%.
- ❖ Acropora intermedia showing the highest survival (89.1%) and growth rate (16.7 cm/year) after five years.

- ❖ Between 2015 and 2019, 10,600 artificial reef modules (triangular artificial reef - TAR and perforated trapezoidal artificial reef - PTAR) were deployed.
- ❖ It is increasing coral recruit density from 1.23 in 2004 to 76.01 in 2020 on PTARs.
- ❖ Live coral cover at restored sites increased from 2.7% in 2006 to 18.8% in 2020, compared to only 1.8% at unrestored sites.
- ❖ Fish density rose dramatically from 14.5 in 2006 to 310.0 in 2020 at restored sites.
- ❖ They support 63 fish species in Vaan Island and 51 species in Koswari Island.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched the Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources (TNSHORE) project to deploy 8,500 artificial reef modules and restore degraded coral reefs and seagrass beds.



### **Chief Minister's State Youth Award 2025**

- ❖ Reigning Carrom World Champion M. Khazima won the Chief Minister's State Youth Award 2025.
- ❖ The Chief Minister's State Youth Award 2025 Tamil Nadu recognizes a young individuals aged 15 to 35 for their voluntary contributions to community development.
- ❖ The award includes a cash prize of ₹1,00,000, a certificate of appreciation, and a medal.

- ❖ Government employees and educational institution staff are not eligible for the award.



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Plumeria Garden inauguration**



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Plumeria Garden, Banyan Grove, and Babbling Brook at Amrit Udyan in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- ❖ The new gardens are open to the public until September 14, 2025.
- ❖ Plumeria Garden features curated plantations and grass mounds.
- ❖ Banyan Grove includes reflexology paths, Panchtatva trails, and forest-inspired soundscapes.
- ❖ Babbling Brook offers cascades, sculptural spouts, stepping stones, and a reflecting pool.

### **India's Moon mission**

- ❖ Prime Minister of India announced that India will land an astronaut on the Moon by 2040.
- ❖ He said the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (space station) will be ready by 2035.
- ❖ Mars and Venus exploration missions are also planned in India's space roadmap.
- ❖ India's first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, is scheduled for early 2027.

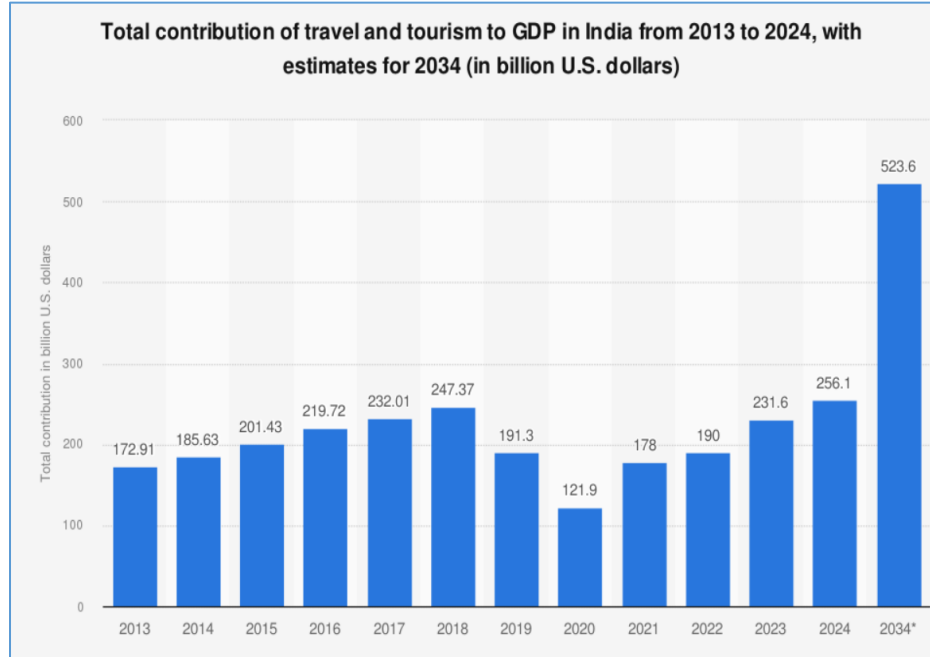


### **Tourism Vision 2047**

- ❖ India's tourism industry plans to increase employment from 50 million to 200 million jobs.
- ❖ The Tourism Vision 2047 roadmap targets a \$3 trillion tourism economy.
- ❖ It aims to attract 100 million inbound tourists and generate 20 billion domestic visits.



- ❖ The national tourism conclave was held under the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH).
- ❖ The sector aims to increase its contribution to India's GDP from 5% to 10% by 2047.



## Water Scarce Districts in India

S.No.	State/Union Territories	No. of Over-Exploited	No. of Critical Districts	No. of Semi-Critical Districts	Total no. of OCS Districts
1	Bihar	0	0	2	2
2	Chhattisgarh	0	1	3	4
3	Gujarat	4	0	2	6
4	Haryana	16	1	2	19
5	Jharkhand	0	0	1	1
6	Karnataka	5	4	5	14
7	Kerala	0	0	2	2
8	Madhya Pradesh	6	1	6	13
9	Maharashtra	0	0	5	5
10	Punjab	19	1	0	20

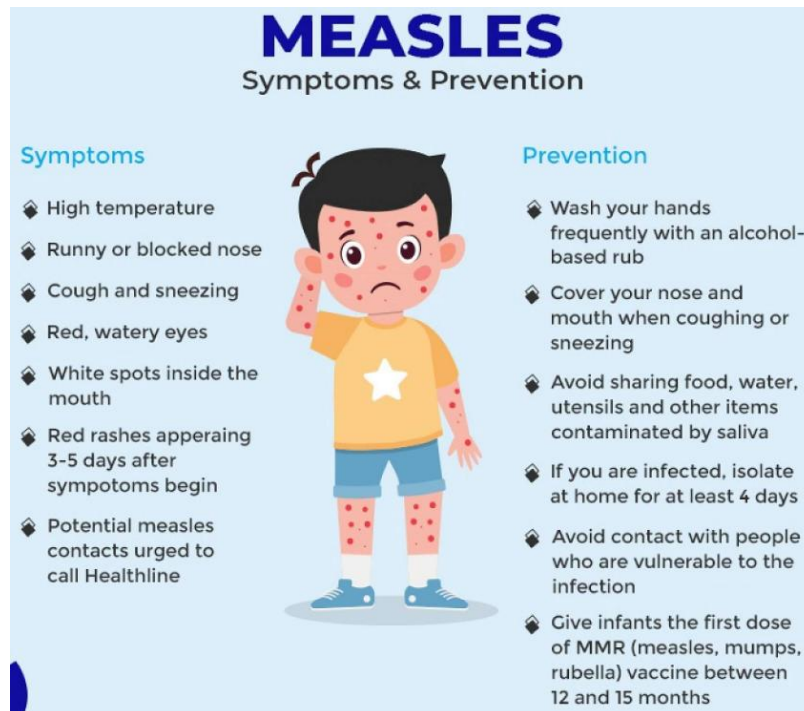
- ❖ The Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) and state governments have assessed dynamic groundwater resources every year since 2022.



- ❖ According to the 2024 CGWB report, 102 districts are over-exploited, 22 are critical, and 69 are semi-critical for groundwater.
- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, targeting 256 water-stressed districts.
- ❖ The JSA Catch the Rain (CTR) campaign began in 2021 and expanded nationwide with focused districts each year.
- ❖ The 2023 JSA CTR prioritized 150 districts identified by the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ The 2024 campaign focused on 151 districts identified by CGWB under the theme Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The 2025 JSA CTR campaign targets 148 districts identified by CGWB with emphasis on grassroots participation and innovative financing.
- ❖ A total of 148 Central Nodal Officers has been assigned to the 148 high-focus districts for the 2025-2026 campaign.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Rubella Elimination - Nepal



- ❖ Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem, confirmed by the WHO.
- ❖ The rubella vaccine was introduced in Nepal's immunization program in 2012.

- ❖ Rubella is a contagious viral infection that can cause serious birth defects if pregnant women are infected.
- ❖ By 2024, over 95% of Nepal's population had received at least one dose of the rubella vaccine.
- ❖ Nepal is the sixth country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to achieve rubella elimination.
- ❖ The South-East Asia Region targets measles and rubella elimination by 2026.

### **Sakura Science Program 2025**

- ❖ The Sakura Science Programme is organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).
- ❖ It aims to promote scientific learning and cultural exchange among youth.
- ❖ India joined the programme in 2016 and has since sent 619 students and 91 supervisors to Japan.
- ❖ In 2025, 34 Indian students and 2 supervisors from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and government schools across Andaman & Nicobar, Ladakh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura will visit Japan.

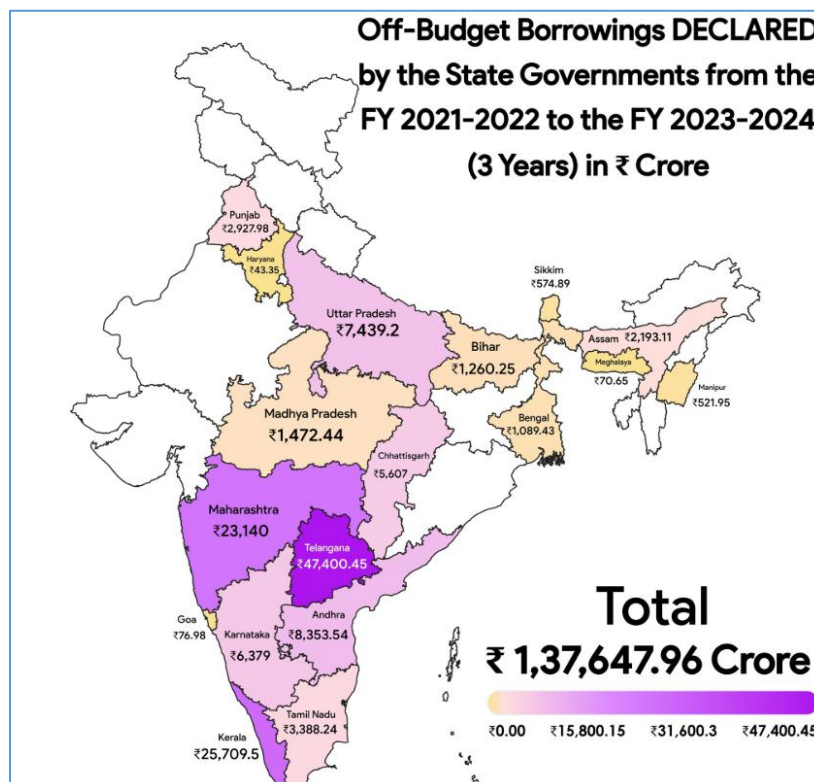


## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **Off-budget borrowings of states**

- ❖ Off-budget borrowings (OBB) rose to ₹29,335 crore in FY25 from ₹21,251 crore in FY24.

- ❖ Off-budget borrowings had peaked at ₹67,181 crore in FY21 during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The central government discontinued its own off-budget borrowing practices from FY23.
- ❖ Since FY22, the Centre has included debt raised by state-owned entities under Article 293(3) borrowing limits.
- ❖ States are opting for the Centre's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme offering 50-year interest-free loans.
- ❖ A CareEdge Ratings report says budgets of 13 major states project a 3.2% fiscal deficit in FY26.
- ❖ Maharashtra topped off-budget borrowings in FY25 at ₹13,990 crore, followed by Karnataka at ₹5,438 crore.
- ❖ Telangana and Kerala recorded ₹2,697 crore and ₹983 crore, respectively, in FY25.
- ❖ In FY24, Maharashtra had ₹7,700 crore in off-budget borrowings, followed by Kerala at ₹4,688 crore.



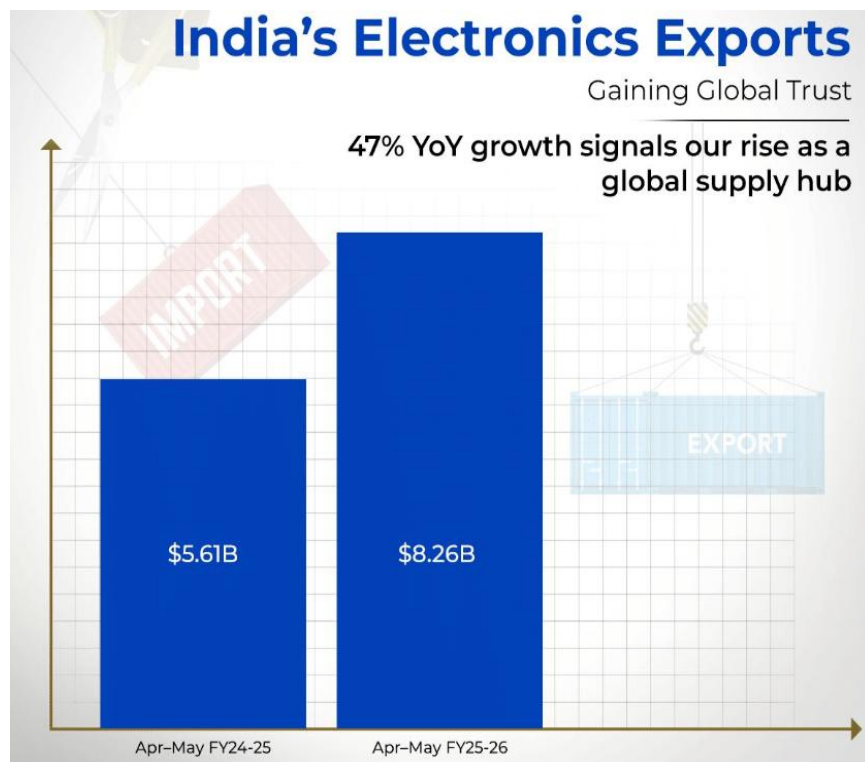
- ❖ States like Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh rely heavily on central government transfers.



- ❖ Richer states like Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra finance most of their budgets through their revenues.
- ❖ States use off-budget borrowings to fund welfare schemes and infrastructure without breaching fiscal deficit targets.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu each borrowed over ₹1.2 lakh crore through open market sources in FY25.

### Electronics exports in Q1

- ❖ India's electronics exports rose over 47% in Q1 of 2025-26.
- ❖ Electronics production grew from \$31 billion in 2014-15 to \$133 billion in 2024-25.
- ❖ Mobile manufacturing units increased from 2 in 2014 to over 300 in 2025.
- ❖ India is the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

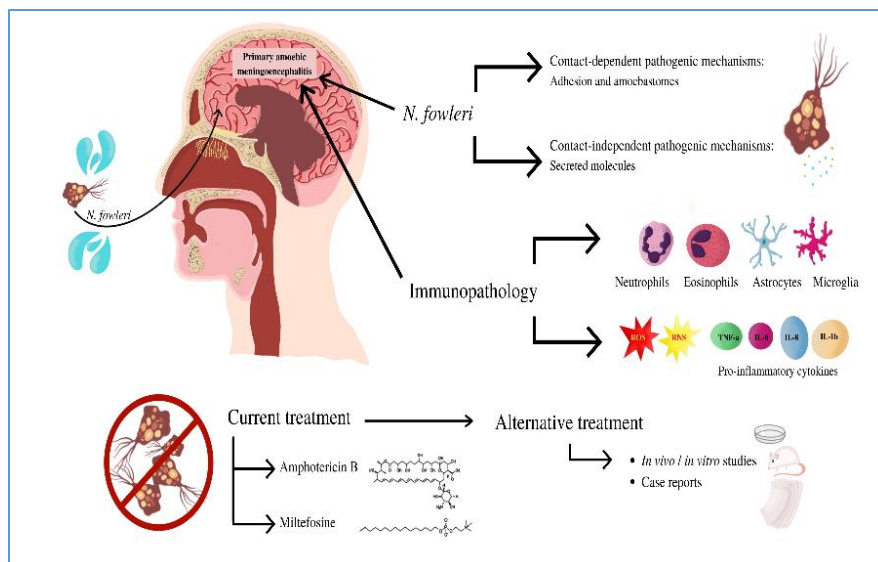
### Parallel Web Systems

- ❖ Ex-Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal launched a new AI startup called Parallel Web Systems.

- ❖ The startup builds infrastructure for AI agents to use the web in real time.
- ❖ Parallel aims to make AIs the primary users of the internet.



### Naegleria fowleri amoeba



- ❖ *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba is found in well water in Kozhikode.
- ❖ *Naegleria fowleri* is a rare, deadly amoeba that causes primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), a severe brain infection.

- ❖ This is the third PAM case reported in the Kozhikode district in 2025.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Invasive plants in Assam



- ❖ Grassland invaders are threatening Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP).
- ❖ DSNP is the only habitat of feral horses in India.
- ❖ Native plants *Bombax ceiba* (Simalu) and *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Ajar) have joined invasive species to alter the riverine ecosystem.
- ❖ The invasive plants include *Chromolaena odorata*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Parthenium hysterophorous*, and *Mikania micrantha*.
- ❖ In 2000, grasslands covered 28.78% of DSNP, but by 2013, shrubland had expanded, causing a significant decline in grassland area.
- ❖ Degraded forest increased to 80.52 square kilometers (23.47%) by 2024, which negatively impacts biodiversity.
- ❖ The loss of grassland threatens several species, including the Bengal florican, hog deer, and swamp grass babbler.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Photography Day 2025 – August 19

- ❖ It aims to honour the art of photography and its power to inspire, preserve memories, and create change.



- ❖ The day marks the invention of the daguerreotype process by Louis Daguerre in 1839.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "My Favourite Photo".

