

August - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved renaming Jalalabad in UP's Shahjahanpur district to "Parshurampuri," citing its mythological link as Parshuram's birthplace.
- ❖ The intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ INS Aridhaman, India's third nuclear ballistic submarine under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, is in final sea trials and set for induction by end-2025.
- ❖ The Gunmen attacked a mosque in Nigeria's northwest Katsina state during Fajr prayers.
- ❖ The World Entrepreneurs Day observed on August 21 celebrates the innovation resilience passion creativity and impact of entrepreneurs worldwide.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

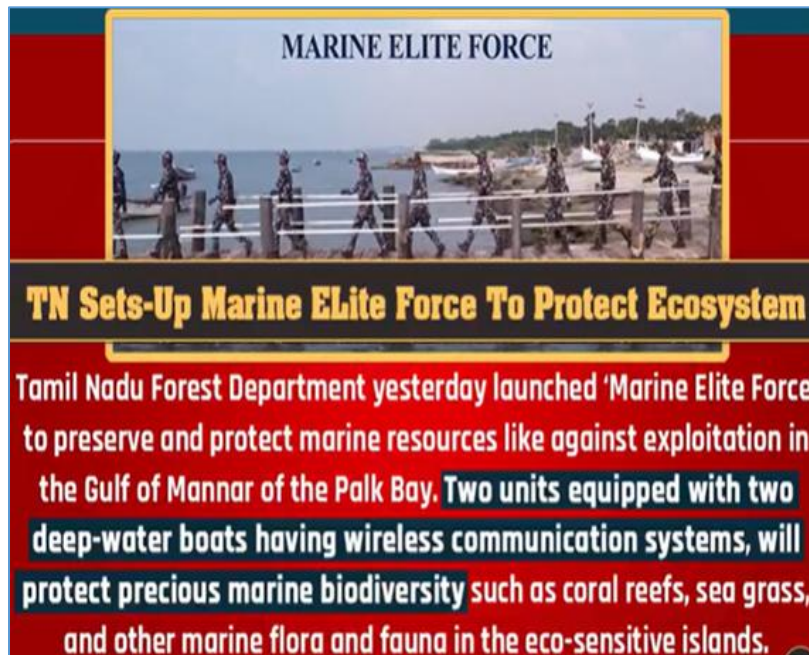
CM's Breakfast Scheme expansion



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister will launch the expansion of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to State-aided urban primary schools on August 26, 2025.
- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will attend the launch as the chief guest.
- ❖ The expansion will benefit approximately 3.05 lakh additional students across the State.
- ❖ As of February 2025, about 17.53 lakh students in 34,987 schools have benefited from the programme.

- ❖ The scheme began in 2022, initially for government-run primary schools and expanded progressively to include urban government and aided schools.
- ❖ Hitherto, the programme was implemented in government-run primary schools across the State and State-aided primary schools located only in rural areas.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government allocated ₹600.25 crore for the programme in 2025-26.
- ❖ Evaluations show the scheme increased attendance, improved children's health, reduced hospital admissions by 63.2%, and lowered serious illnesses by 70.6% in government primary schools.

Marine Elite Force unit



- ❖ Tamil Nadu will set up its second Marine Elite Force unit under the Chennai Wildlife Division.
- ❖ The first unit was established in May 2024 in Ramanathapuram to protect the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay marine ecosystems.
- ❖ The new unit will focus on safeguarding endangered Olive Ridley turtles along the Chennai coast, especially between Neelankarai and Marina nesting sites.
- ❖ The Marine Elite Force will patrol, enforce laws, and coordinate with agencies to reduce threats within five nautical miles of the coast.
- ❖ The force will support enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ It will collaborate with Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group, Indian Coast Guard, fisheries department, NGOs, and fishermen's associations.



NATIONAL NEWS

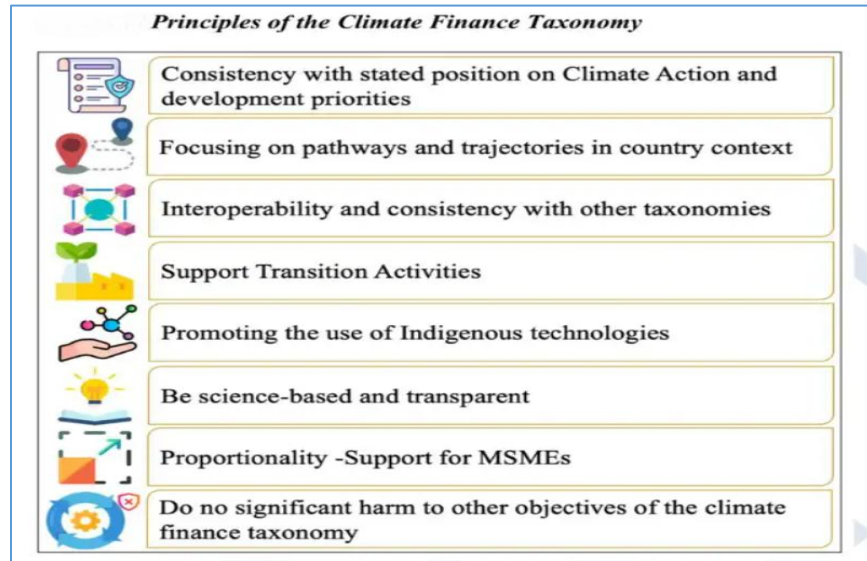
Child nutrition in India

- ❖ India's healthiest children live in its north-eastern states and Kerala.
- ❖ The Gangetic belt states have among India's least healthy children.
- ❖ As per the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) 37% of children under five are stunted.
- ❖ It is slightly lower than the 38.4% recorded in 2016.
- ❖ Nearly 7% of women aged 15-19 having begun childbearing.
- ❖ Only 11% of children under two receive a minimum acceptable diet combining diversity and frequency.
- ❖ Only 64% of infants under six months are exclusively breastfed.
- ❖ Caesarean deliveries, rising to over 22% in 2021, disrupt early breastfeeding initiation, affecting infant nutrition.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked 11th in Overall child health ranking.

State	Overall child health ranking	Diet ranking	Malnutrition ranking	Iron deficiency ranking	Micronutrients deficiency ranking	Non-communicable disease ranking	Obesity ranking
Arunachal Pradesh	1	3	2	6	5	9	23
Kerala	2	2	5	4	9	21	14
Sikkim	3	1	1	11	2	18	25
Meghalaya	4	4	20	13	7	7	17
West Bengal	5	6	12	19	1	19	12
Goa	6	17	7	2	4	20	20
Himachal Pradesh	7	13	22	9	10	3	16
Jammu & Kashmir	8	9	11	5	16	5	29
Delhi	9	18	8	19	13	4	15
Karnataka	10	20	16	17	15	6	4
Tamil Nadu	11	16	10	11	6		

Draft Climate Finance Taxonomy

- ❖ The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has released a Draft Framework for India's Climate Finance Taxonomy.
- ❖ This follows the Union Budget 2024-25 announcement to develop a taxonomy for climate finance.
- ❖ The draft aims to guide classification of climate-supportive projects aligned with India's Net Zero by 2070 target.
- ❖ It will support the green transition while ensuring reliable and affordable energy access for the long term.



India - EAEU Free Trade Agreement



- ❖ India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to begin Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.
- ❖ The EAEU includes Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic with a combined GDP of \$6.5 trillion.
- ❖ The trade between India and the EAEU reached \$69 billion in 2024, marking a 7% rise from 2023.

- ❖ The FTA aims to boost market access for Indian exporters and benefit micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

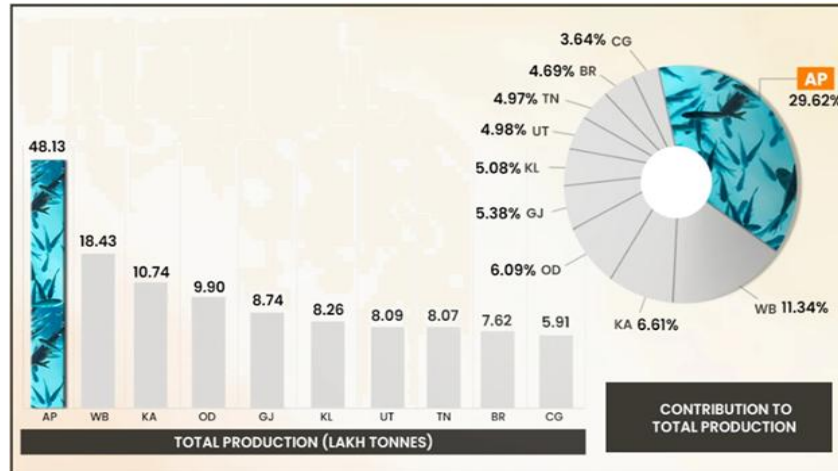
RE100 initiative

- ❖ Suzlon Group pledges to use 100% renewable energy at all 15 manufacturing units by 2030.
- ❖ It became the first Indian energy company to join the global RE100 initiative for renewable electricity transition.
- ❖ Suzlon aims for carbon neutrality by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2040 across all emission scopes.
- ❖ Currently, its Dhule rotor blade unit operates entirely on renewable energy, achieving over 92% carbon neutrality.
- ❖ The company has installed about 21.1 GW of wind energy capacity in 17 countries globally.



Marine fish production in 2023–24

- ❖ India's marine fish production rose from 34.76 lakh tonnes in 2020–21 to 44.95 lakh tonnes in 2023–24 with 8.9% annual growth.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) assessed 135 marine fish stocks in 2022.
- ❖ Around 91.1% were found to be sustainable and in good health.
- ❖ One hundred Coastal Fishermen Villages (CFV) are being upgraded as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lipulekh Pass revival



- ❖ The recent agreement between India and China to reopen border trade through the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand has triggered an issue in Nepal.
- ❖ Nepal claims that the Lipulekh falls within its territory.
- ❖ The India-Nepal border was defined by the 1816 Sugauli Treaty, which set the Kali River as the boundary.
- ❖ As per Nepal's view, the Kali River originates in Limpiyadhura, making the disputed region its territory under the Sugauli Treaty.
- ❖ As per India, the river begins in Kalapani village, meaning the region falls within Indian territory.

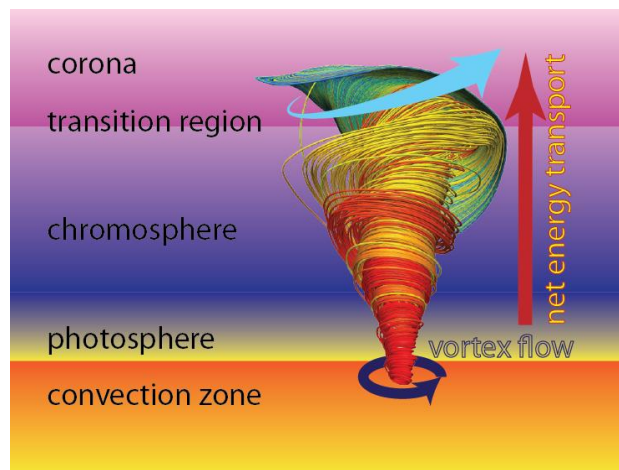
ISA's Research Hub in India

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will establish 17 centres of excellence in different countries by year-end, offering testing, lab training, and startup ecosystems.
- ❖ ISA plans to create a Global Capability Centre in India to act as a hub connecting these centres, similar to a “Silicon Valley for solar.”
- ❖ India has installed about 119 GW of solar capacity as of July 2025, with solar comprising 48% of its non-fossil power capacity.
- ❖ ISA aims to unlock \$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 and support global solar adoption with human capital from India.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Solar Tornado

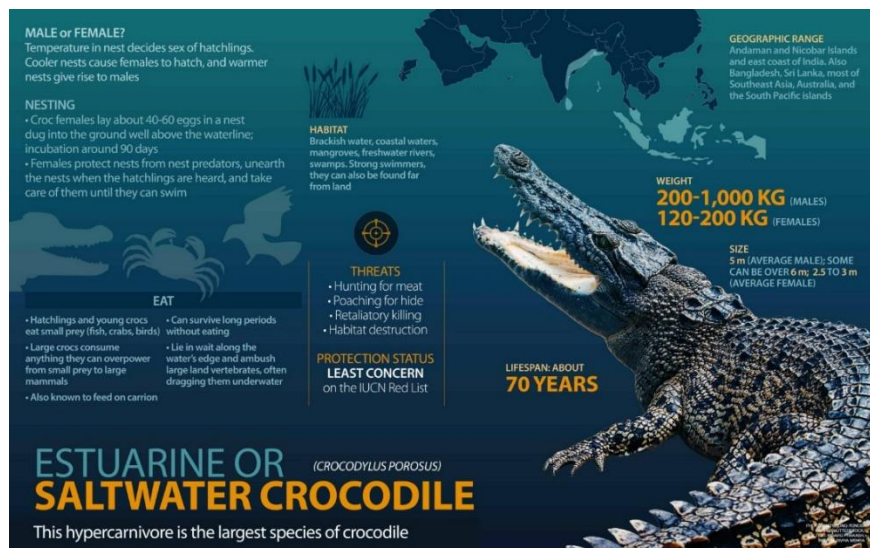


- ❖ Romanian scientist captured rare images of a massive solar tornado and a giant plasma eruption occurring together on the Sun.
- ❖ The solar tornado reached about 130,000 km high, taller than stacking ten Earths, shaped by the Sun's magnetic field.
- ❖ The eruptive prominence spanned roughly 200,000 km and released a coronal mass ejection (CME) that poses no threat to Earth.
- ❖ This event highlights the Sun's dynamic magnetic activity as it nears the peak of its 11-year solar cycle.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

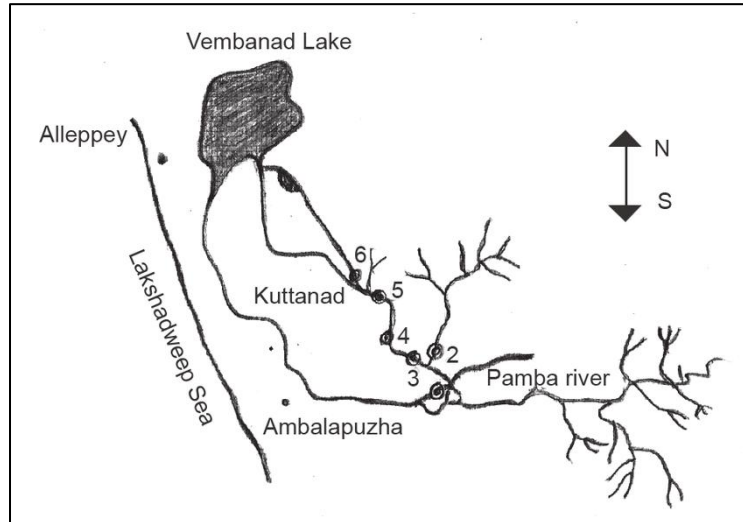
Saltwater crocodile population

- ❖ The saltwater crocodile population in Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (SBR) increased in 2025, with 213 direct sightings recorded.
- ❖ The estimated population ranges between 220 and 242 crocodiles, up from 204 to 234 in 2024.
- ❖ The encounter rate in 2025 is approximately 0.18 crocodiles per kilometre, or one crocodile per 5.5 km of creek studied.
- ❖ The survey covered 1,168 km of creeks, accounting for 64% of the significant creek length in the SBR.
- ❖ Saltwater crocodiles prefer creeks and rivers with high tide widths below 180 metres and tolerate a wide range of water salinity.
- ❖ The West Bengal government has conserved crocodiles through the Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project since 1976, releasing 577 crocodiles into the wild until 2022.



STATES' NEWS

Pampa river under National River Conservation Plan



- ❖ Kerala's Pampa River is the state's third-longest river, measuring 176 km in length.
- ❖ The river originates from Pulachimalai hill in the Peermade plateau at an altitude of 5,410 ft.
- ❖ It flows through the districts of Pathanamthitta, Idukki, and Alappuzha.
- ❖ The Pampa River basin covers an area of 2,235 sq km and includes 30 panchayats and Chengannur municipality.
- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry has requested a detailed report from the Kerala government for inclusion in the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

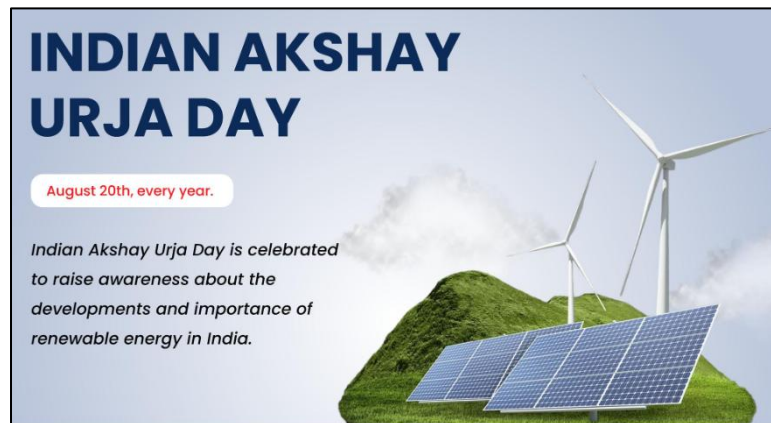


- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh conducted a public hearing for environmental clearance to the proposed Kalai-II hydroelectric project in Anjaw district.
- ❖ The 1,200 MW project is planned on the Lohit River.
- ❖ Kalai-II is one of 13 stalled hydro projects revived through agreements with central public sector units.
- ❖ It aims to enhance energy security in the Northeast.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Akshay Urja Day 2025 - August 20

- ❖ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, India's youngest PM.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2004.
- ❖ The day was established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ❖ The aim is to raise awareness about the importance and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- ❖ August 20 is also observed as Sadbhavana Divas, or "Day of Harmony," to mark the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.



International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2025 - August 21

- ❖ The day was established by the UN General Assembly in resolution 72/165 in 2017.
- ❖ The aim is to honour and support victims and survivors of terrorism and uphold their human rights.

- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism.”



World Senior Citizens' Day 2025 - August 21



- ❖ The day was founded in 1988 by U.S. President Ronald Reagan through Proclamation 5847.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1991 and later recognized as a global observance by the UN in 1990.
- ❖ The aim is to honour the contributions of senior citizens and raise awareness about their rights and needs.
- ❖ The 2025 theme is "Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future".

