

August - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ For the first time in India, the Corporation Elementary School at Edamalaipatti pudur in Tiruchi has introduced uniforms with QR (Quick Response) codes which contains student details like class and school address for quick identification in emergencies.
- ❖ Indian shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions competition at the Asian Shooting Championship held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Former CRPF and ITBP Director General Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor.
- ❖ International Dog Day is observed on August 26 since 2004 to raise awareness about rescuing abandoned dogs and responsible pet care.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Chennai Institute of Journalism



- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister inaugurated the Chennai Institute of Journalism at Kotturpuram on August 25, 2025.
- ❖ The institute is located adjacent to the Anna Centenary Library in Chennai.
- ❖ The government sanctioned ₹7.75 crore for setting up the institute under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The institute offers a postgraduate diploma programme in journalism from the academic year 2025–26.

- ❖ Former editor-in-chief of The Hindu and director of Kasturi and Sons Limited N. Ravi was appointed chairperson of the board.
- ❖ Former readers' editor of The Hindu A. S. Panneerselvan was appointed director-general of the institute.

TN Police Reform Projects

- ❖ The Indian Police Foundation signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Police for internal reforms and capacity building.
- ❖ The project aims to improve the police-public interface, grievance redressal systems, and citizen-friendly policing practices.
- ❖ Special focus will be given to women's safety, victim assistance, and better working conditions for police personnel.
- ❖ The reforms project will be implemented in fifteen police stations in the Avadi Commissionerate and fifteen in the Chengalpattu district.
- ❖ The project duration is one year, and recommendations will be scaled up across Tamil Nadu based on third-party evaluation.
- ❖ Similar internal reform projects are also being implemented in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana.



Women's reservation in the Special Police

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has restored entry and reservation for women in the Tamil Nadu Special Police after nearly 14 years.
- ❖ A government order issued by the Home Department in August confirmed that women would again be eligible for recruitment in Armed Police battalions.

- ❖ The government has also revived the single-entry system for the recruitment of police constables after 17 years.
- ❖ This system ensures uniformity among recruits and helps prevent issues related to seniority in postings and promotions.
- ❖ Women constables will be trained in Armed Police battalions, then transferred to district armed reserve, and later to taluk police stations.
- ❖ Earlier, only one of the fifteen battalions, the fifth battalion at Vaishnavi Nagar, was exclusively for women personnel.
- ❖ In 2011, the recruitment of women into the Tamil Nadu Special Police was stopped and restricted to taluk and armed reserve roles.
- ❖ In 2008, the government ended the single-entry system, leading to disparities in promotions and postings.
- ❖ Officers and personnel of Tamil Nadu Special Police are deployed within and outside the state for major law and order duties.
- ❖ The eighth battalion is stationed in Delhi for duties at Tihar jail, and the thirteenth battalion serves as the Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force.
- ❖ As of January 1, 2025, Tamil Nadu Police had a sanctioned strength of 1,33,961, including 26,589 women personnel.



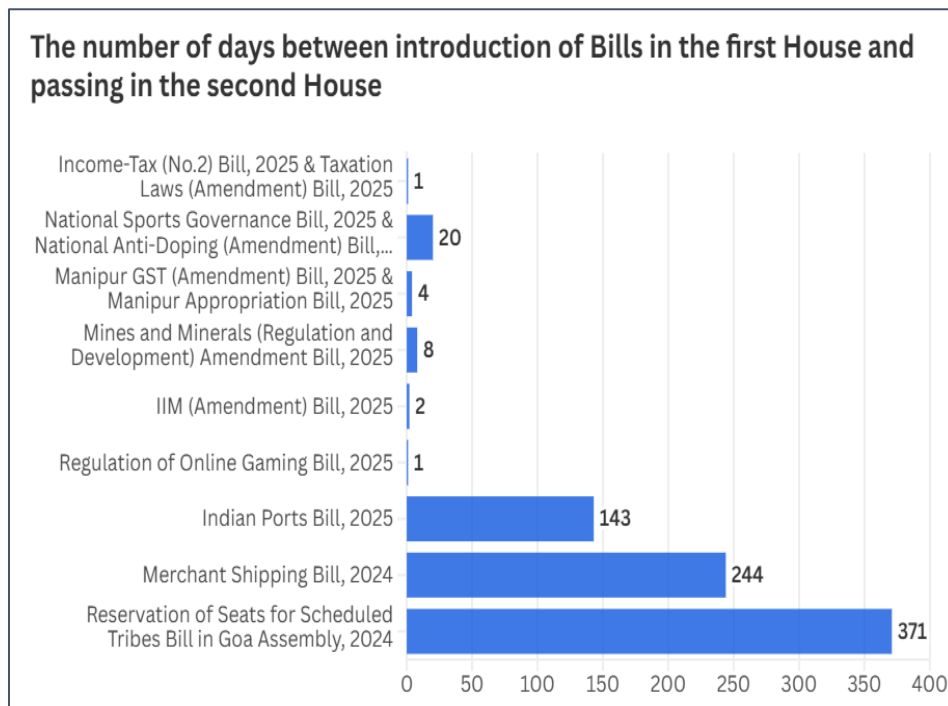
NATIONAL NEWS

Parliament Monsoon Session efficiency

- ❖ The Monsoon Session of Parliament ran from July 21 to August 21, 2025, and was marked by frequent disruptions and adjournments.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha functioned for only 29 percent of its scheduled hours, while the Rajya Sabha worked for just 34 percent.



- ❖ This was the lowest productivity recorded in the 18th Lok Sabha so far, largely due to repeated protests and stalled proceedings.
- ❖ Only 23 percent of Question Hour was completed in the Lok Sabha, and a mere 6 percent in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ No oral answers were given on 12 days in the Rajya Sabha and seven days in the Lok Sabha during the session.
- ❖ Ministers answered just 8 percent of starred questions in the Lok Sabha and 5 percent in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Income-Tax Bill, 2025, was withdrawn after a Select Committee report and replaced with a new Bill passed the same day.
- ❖ Operation Sindoor was discussed for 19 hours in the Lok Sabha and 16 hours in the Rajya Sabha, taking up a major share of total time.
- ❖ The 18th Lok Sabha has not elected a Deputy Speaker since it was formed, and the previous 17th Lok Sabha also lacked one for five years.



Postal services restrictions

- ❖ India's Department of Posts suspends most postal services to the United States from August 25.
- ❖ The suspension follows the US Executive Order Number 14324 that removes the duty-free exemption for goods valued up to 800 US dollars.

- ❖ All postal shipments to the US will now face customs duties except gifts valued up to 100 US dollars.
- ❖ US Customs and Border Protection requires carriers to collect duties, but unclear guidelines have caused air carriers to refuse postal consignments.
- ❖ The Department of Posts will continue accepting letters, documents, and exempt gifts while working to resolve the issue.

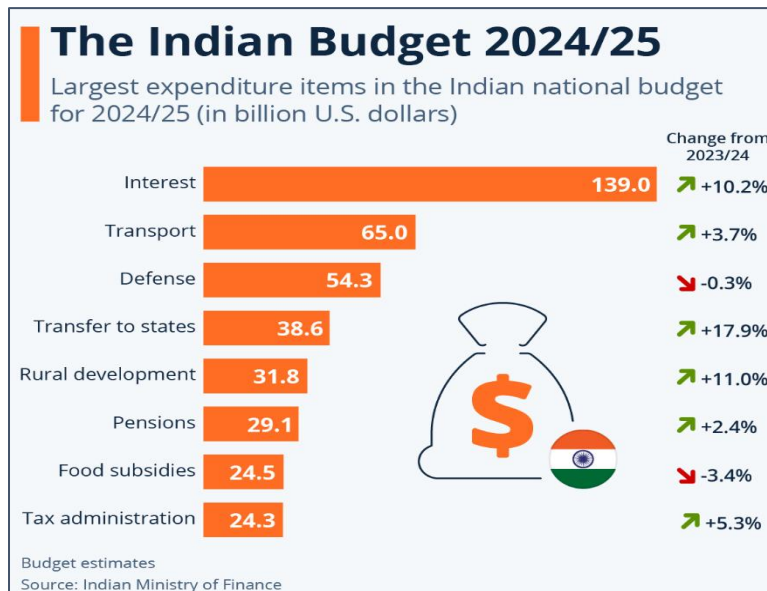


ECONOMY NEWS

India's Interest Bill in FY26

- ❖ India's interest payments are projected to rise to ₹12.76 trillion in FY26, nearly triple the amount from a decade ago.
- ❖ Government debt rose from ₹71 trillion (51.5% of GDP) in FY16 to a projected ₹200 trillion (56.1% of GDP) by FY26.
- ❖ Public debt in FY25 stood at ₹185.94 trillion, including ₹157.11 trillion internal, ₹8.74 trillion external, and ₹20.09 trillion in public account liabilities.
- ❖ The debt-to-GDP ratio peaked at 61.4% in FY21 due to pandemic-driven fiscal expansion and is targeted to be reduced to 50% by 2031.
- ❖ Benchmark 10-year bond yields averaged 6.6% in FY21, now hovering around 6.5–6.55%, with a recent low of 6.4% in April 2025.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit shrank to 0.8% of the budgeted target in May 2025 from 3.1% a year earlier, with FY25 closing at 4.8% of GDP.

- ❖ The government uses bond buybacks and switches to ease repayment pressure, spread liabilities, and manage refinancing risks.



Liquidity management framework

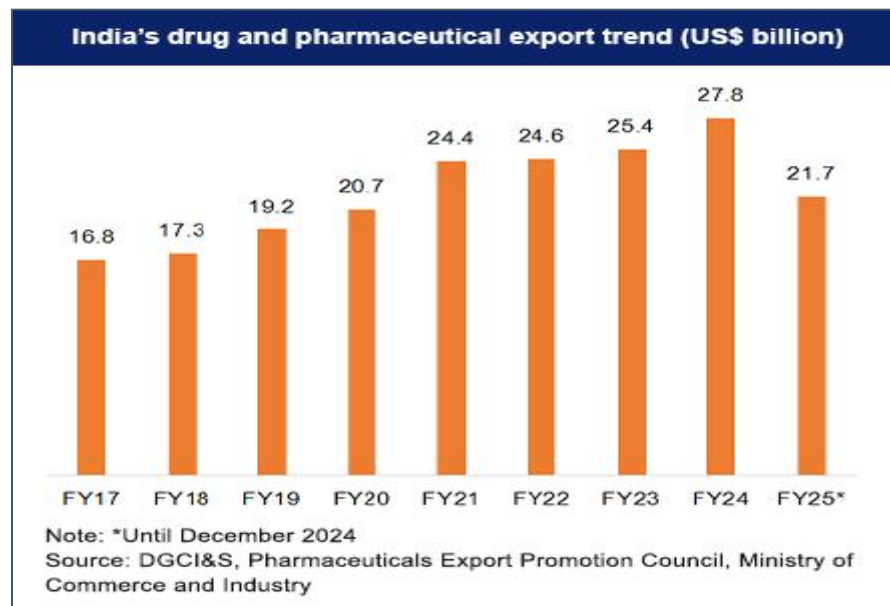
RBI ON LIQUIDITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- RBI releases internal working group report on liquidity management framework
- RBI panel recommends retaining weighted avg call rate as policy rate
- Call money market remains preferred for policy signal
- Call money market has maximum control over call rate, reflects interbank market dynamics
- Group suggests shift to 7-day VRR operations, shorter tenors to manage transient liquidity

- ❖ The RBI's Internal Working Group (IWG) proposed discontinuing the 14-day variable rate repo as the main liquidity tool.
- ❖ They suggested using weekly operations and fine-tuning instruments for better flexibility.
- ❖ The weighted average call rate (WACR) will remain the operating target.

- ❖ Reserve requirements and averaging help manage rate volatility, but banks underutilise them.
- ❖ Lowering daily reserve minimums could improve liquidity usage and reduce costs.

India's pharmaceutical exports



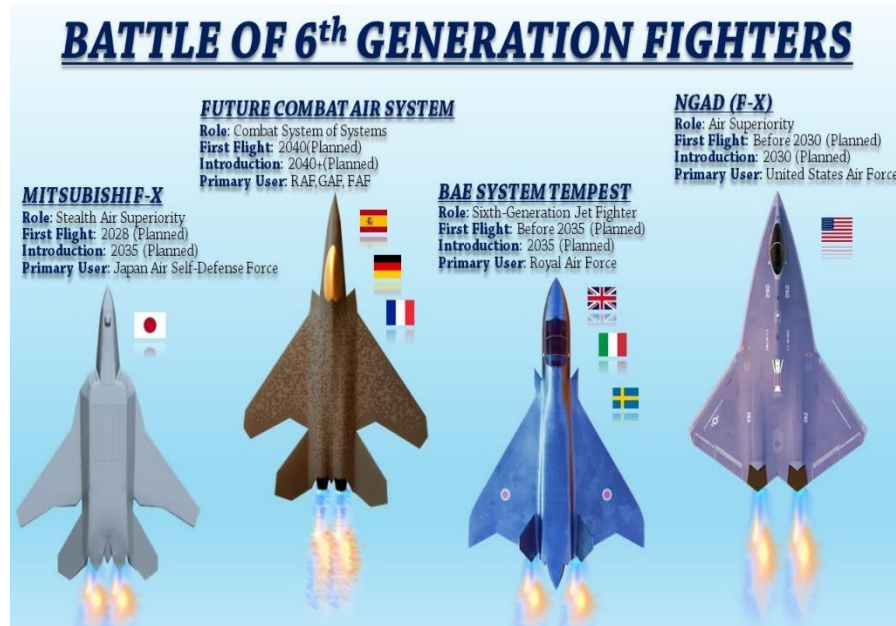
- ❖ India's pharmaceutical exports rose 5.21 percent to 7.57 billion dollars in the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26.
- ❖ Imports increased by 4.21 percent to 786 million dollars during the same period.
- ❖ Last financial year, pharmaceutical exports increased 9.39 percent to 30.47 billion dollars from 27.85 billion dollars in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ Major import categories were bulk drugs and drug intermediaries, accounting for 46 percent of total pharma imports.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

US's 6G Fighter Jet

- ❖ The F-47 is the next-generation air dominance fighter aircraft for the United States Air Force.
- ❖ The aircraft is designed to replace the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor.
- ❖ Boeing was awarded the contract to develop and manufacture the F-47 under the NGAD (Next Generation Air Dominance) program.

- ❖ The NGAD system is a family of connected systems, including drones and a manned fighter jet.
- ❖ The F-47 will fly over 1,000 nautical miles without the need for refuelling.
- ❖ It is expected to achieve speeds faster than Mach 2.
- ❖ The design includes stealth++ features beyond current stealth aircraft standards.
- ❖ The F-47 will integrate radar systems using gallium nitride for high power and efficiency.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Sundarbans Tiger Reserve expansion

- ❖ The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) approved the addition of 1,044.68 square kilometres to the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The total area of the reserve is now 3,629.57 square kilometres, making it the second largest tiger reserve in India.
- ❖ Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh remains the largest with 5,937 square kilometres.
- ❖ The Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga ranges in the South 24 Parganas district have been included in the reserve area.
- ❖ The original reserve had a core area of 1,699.92 square kilometres and a buffer area of 885.27 square kilometres.

- ❖ In 2022, 81 tigers were recorded inside the reserve and 20 in the surrounding areas of South 24 Parganas.
- ❖ There are 58 tiger reserves in India, and Sundarbans has moved from seventh to the second largest in size.
- ❖ The reserve was established in 1973 under Project Tiger and includes a national park that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Top 10 internet users in 2025

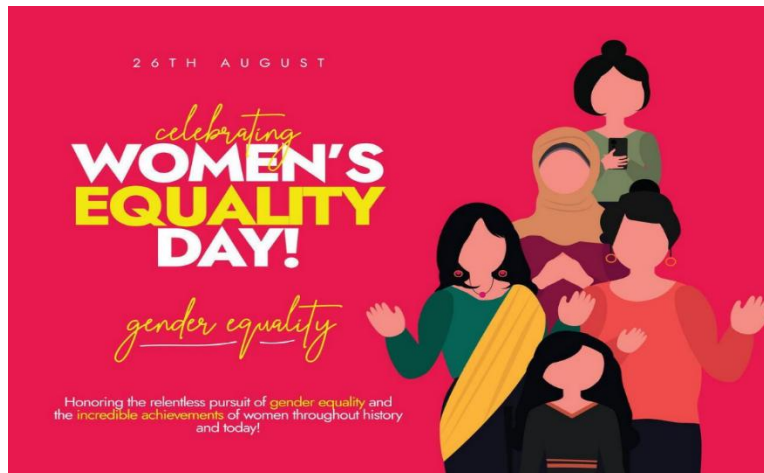
(in Millions)			(in Millions)			
1		China	1,110	11	 Philippines	97.5
2		India	806	12	 Egypt	96.3
3		USA	322	13	 Vietnam	79.8
4		Indonesia	212	14	 Germany	78.9
5		Brazil	183	15	 Bangladesh	77.7
6		Russia	133	16	 Turkey	77.3
7		Pakistan	116	17	 Iran	73.2
8		Mexico	110	18	 UK	67.8
9		Japan	109	19	 Thailand	65.4
10		Nigeria	107	20	 France	63.4

- ❖ China ranks first with 1.11 billion internet users, representing nearly 78 percent of its population.
- ❖ India comes second with around 806 million users, accounting for 55.1 percent of its population.

- ❖ The United States is third with 322 million internet users, with a penetration rate of over 95 percent.
- ❖ At the lower end of the top ten, Mexico ranks ninth with 110 million internet users, representing over 83 percent of its population.
- ❖ Nigeria is tenth with 107 million users, less than half its population, but one of the largest internet markets in Africa.
- ❖ Pakistan ranks seventh, with 116 million and 1.11 billion internet users.
- ❖ Pakistan has less than 50 percent internet penetration despite its large population of 255 million.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Women's Equality Day 2025 - August 26



- ❖ The day recognizes the long and ongoing struggle for women's rights and gender equality around the world.
- ❖ The first Women's Equality Day was celebrated in 1973 after Congress officially designated the day in 1971.
- ❖ The main aim of the day is to raise awareness, honour historic milestones, and empower women through education and action.

