

August - 28

TAMIL NADU NEWS

City Biodiversity Index

- ❖ Chennai sets a new standard with its first city-level biodiversity index.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister launched the Chennai City Biodiversity Index on August 25, 2025.
- ❖ The index is based on 23 indicators and shows how the city is managing its natural ecosystems and biodiversity.
- ❖ Chennai scored 38 out of 72 in the baseline assessment across 18 indicators.
- ❖ The city scored 12 out of 20 in native biodiversity but only 6 out of 16 in ecosystem services.
- ❖ Governance and management received 17 out of 36, showing moderate integration of biodiversity in planning.
- ❖ The index was prepared by ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia.



NATIONAL NEWS

Registered Post service

- ❖ The Indian Postal Department has announced the discontinuation of its iconic Registered Post service from September 1, 2025.
- ❖ The department is planning to merge the Registered post service with speed post.

- ❖ 25% drop in registered items from 244.4 million in 2011-12 to 184.6 million in 2019-20.



27 percent Ethanol Blending by 2030

Aiming for an eco boost
Oil industry experts have allayed fears over mixing ethanol with petrol and say it cannot damage engines

- Ethanol is a bio-fuel obtained primarily from sugarcane. Blending of ethanol with petrol reduces dependence on fossil fuel and helps the environment
- The government had set a target of 10% of ethanol per litre of petrol
- Ethanol is blended through a separate pumping and metering mechanism
- Once blended, ethanol cannot be separated from petrol

Since ethanol can absorb moisture from the atmosphere, dealers say it can cause issues with vehicle engines



- ❖ India plans to increase ethanol blending in petrol to 27 percent by 2030 to boost energy security and reduce oil imports.
- ❖ Ethanol blending has grown from 1.53 percent in 2014 to an expected 20 percent by 2025, saving foreign exchange and cutting emissions.

- ❖ Ethanol reduces carbon monoxide emissions significantly but requires large water use, especially for sugarcane cultivation in water-stressed states.
- ❖ Rising ethanol demand has contributed to maize shortages, affecting food security and causing inflation risks.
- ❖ Vehicles may see reduced fuel efficiency with higher ethanol blends unless designed or modified for them.
- ❖ Second-generation ethanol from crop residues and waste is critical to sustainable growth and reducing food crop dependency.

SC verdict on stray dogs

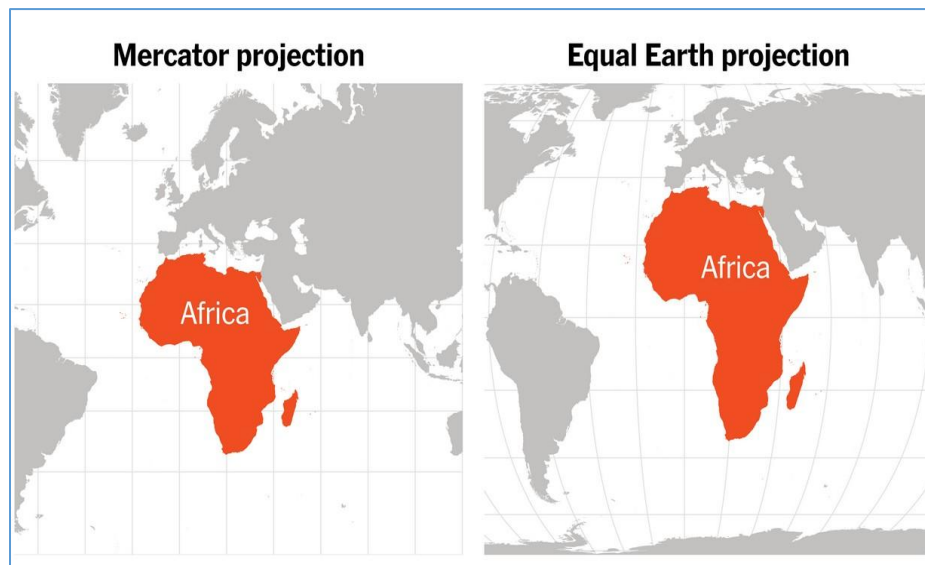


- ❖ The Supreme Court of India modified its earlier order regarding stray dogs on August 22, 2025.
- ❖ Stray dogs can now be released back into their original localities after being dewormed and vaccinated.
- ❖ The earlier directive that prohibited the release of strays shall remain in abeyance until further notice.
- ❖ Dogs showing signs of aggression or rabies infection must not be released into public spaces.
- ❖ The Supreme Court expanded the case to cover the entire country for a uniform national policy on stray dogs.
- ❖ All States and Union Territories have been impleaded to assist in framing and implementing this national policy.

- ❖ The previous order dated August 11, 2025, had directed authorities in Delhi-NCR to shelter all strays without re-release.
- ❖ The modified order aims to balance public safety, animal welfare, and local concerns raised through protests.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mercator map of Earth

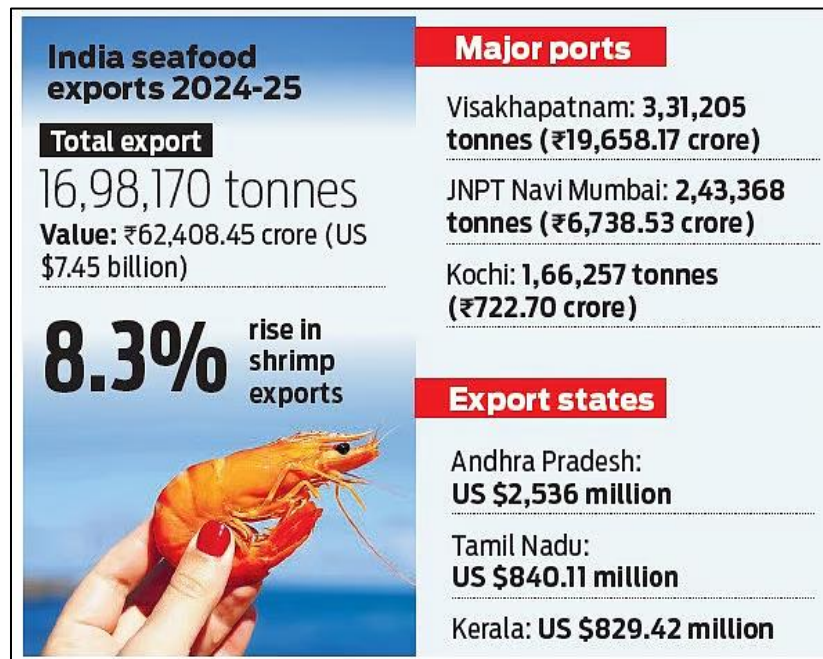


- ❖ The African Union (AU) has endorsed the 'Correct the Map' campaign to replace the Mercator map projection with alternatives such as the Equal Earth map.
- ❖ The Mercator projection widely used in schools, media, and online platforms.
- ❖ It systematically distorts the sizes of landmasses, shrinking Africa while inflating Europe, North America, and Greenland.
- ❖ The Mercator projection was designed in 1569 by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator, who was trying to solve a navigation problem.
- ❖ When a ship follows a fixed compass direction, the path it traces – called the rhumb line – is a curve on most flat maps.
- ❖ Mercator's projection stretched the north-south scale so that all rhumb lines appeared as straight lines.
- ❖ Mercator distorted scale means, landmasses close to the poles appeared larger while those near the equator appeared smaller than in reality.
- ❖ As a result, Africa, which covers 30 million sq. km, often appears on Mercator maps roughly as large as Greenland, which is 14x smaller.

- ❖ Europe also looks comparable in size to Africa although the continent is a third as large.
- ❖ Similarly, Canada, Russia, and northern Europe appear bloated while tropical regions like Africa, South America, and India are diminished.
- ❖ The alternative to the Mercator projection - Equal Earth projection was created in 2018.
- ❖ Another option is the Gall-Peters projection repopularised in the 1970s.

ECONOMY NEWS

Seafood Exports in FY2024-25



- ❖ India's seafood exports reached \$7.45 billion in FY 2024–25.
- ❖ Export volume fell from 17,81,602 metric tonnes in FY 2023–24 to 16,98,170 metric tonnes in FY 2024–25.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp remained the top export item, earning \$5.17 billion and contributing nearly 70% of total seafood revenue.
- ❖ Shrimp exports rose slightly in volume to 7,41,529 metric tonnes from 7,16,004 metric tonnes the previous year.
- ❖ The United States was the largest buyer with imports worth \$2.71 billion, followed by China at \$1.28 billion.
- ❖ Frozen fish and squid ranked as the second and third top exports, valued at \$622.60 million and \$367.68 million, respectively.

- ❖ India currently exports seafood to over 130 countries and aims to expand value-added offerings for premium global markets.

Outbound Investments in FY25



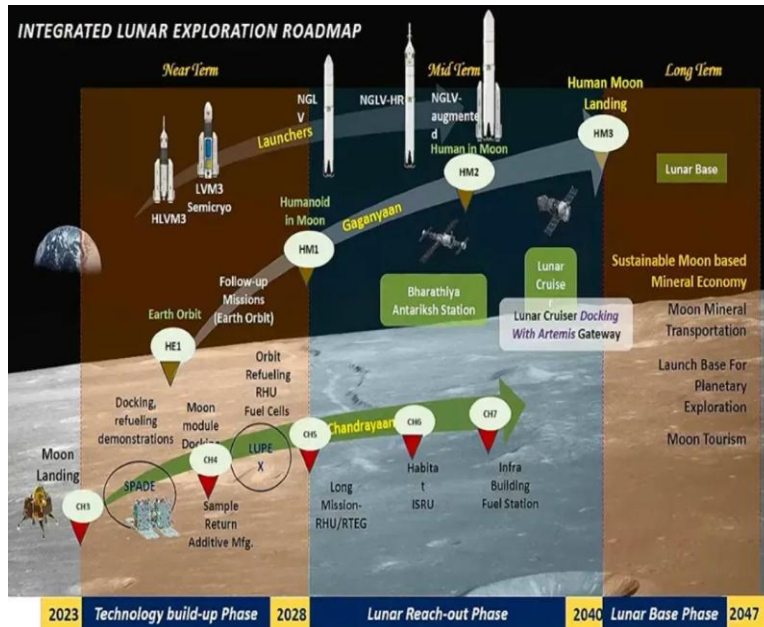
- ❖ India's outbound investments rose by 67.74 percent to \$41.6 billion in FY 2024–25 from \$24.8 billion the previous year.
- ❖ The number of deals increased by 15 percent, reflecting growing global confidence in Indian businesses.
- ❖ The rise was supported by ESG (environmental, social and governance) priorities, global tax reforms, and GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City).
- ❖ New destinations like the UAE, Luxembourg, and Switzerland gained favour due to progressive tax and regulatory frameworks.
- ❖ GIFT City in Gujarat saw a 100 percent rise in outbound flows over two years, offering tax clarity and operational efficiency.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

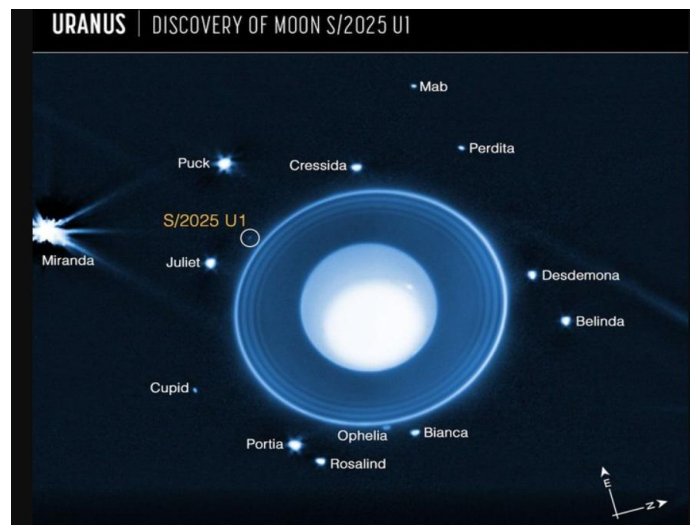
Lunar Module Launch Vehicle

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing the Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV), its heaviest rocket ever.

- ❖ The LMLV is designed for crewed lunar missions planned by 2040 and deep space exploration.
- ❖ It will carry payloads of approximately 27 tonnes to the Moon and 80 tonnes to low Earth orbit.
- ❖ The rocket will use advanced cryogenic and semi-cryogenic propulsion systems.
- ❖ ISRO's launch vehicle evolution began with sounding rockets in 1963 and includes SLV-3, ASLV, PSLV, GSLV, and LVM-3.
- ❖ The LMLV will surpass all previous rockets in power and capability for India's human spaceflight ambitions.



S/2025 U1

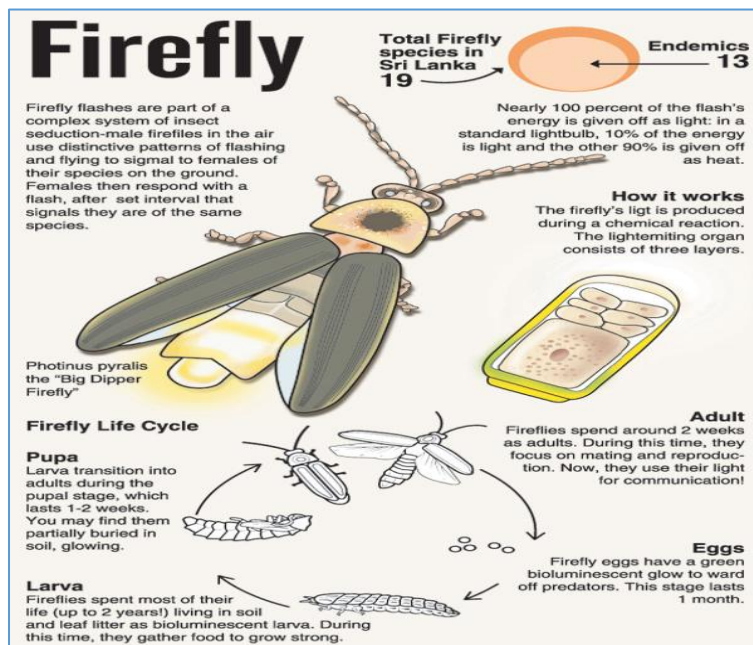


- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope discovered Uranus' 29th moon, named S/2025 U1.
- ❖ The moon is approximately 10 kilometres in diameter.
- ❖ It orbits Uranus at a distance of about 56,000 kilometres.
- ❖ This is the smallest known moon of Uranus to date.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

8 new Firefly Species

- ❖ Eight firefly species have been identified in Anamalai Tiger Reserve through Tamil Nadu's first genetic study on fireflies.
- ❖ The study was conducted by the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur.
- ❖ The study covered 10 sites across Manambolly, Pollachi and Ulandy forest ranges in the reserve.
- ❖ The species identified were *Abscondita perplexa*, *Abscondita terminalis*, *Asymmetricata humeralis*, three *Curtos* species, *Lamprigera* sp. and *Pyrocoelia* sp.
- ❖ Phototactic behaviour analysis showed *Abscondita perplexa* preferred darkness and avoided most coloured lights.
- ❖ White light was found to be neutral in its response to *Abscondita perplexa*.



Nepal in IBCA



INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

- Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- One-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years till 2027-28
- IBCA to be a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organizations
- IBCA aims for mutual cooperation among countries benefit in furthering the conservation agenda
- Have a multipronged approach in broad basing and establishing linkages manifold in several areas and help in knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance etc

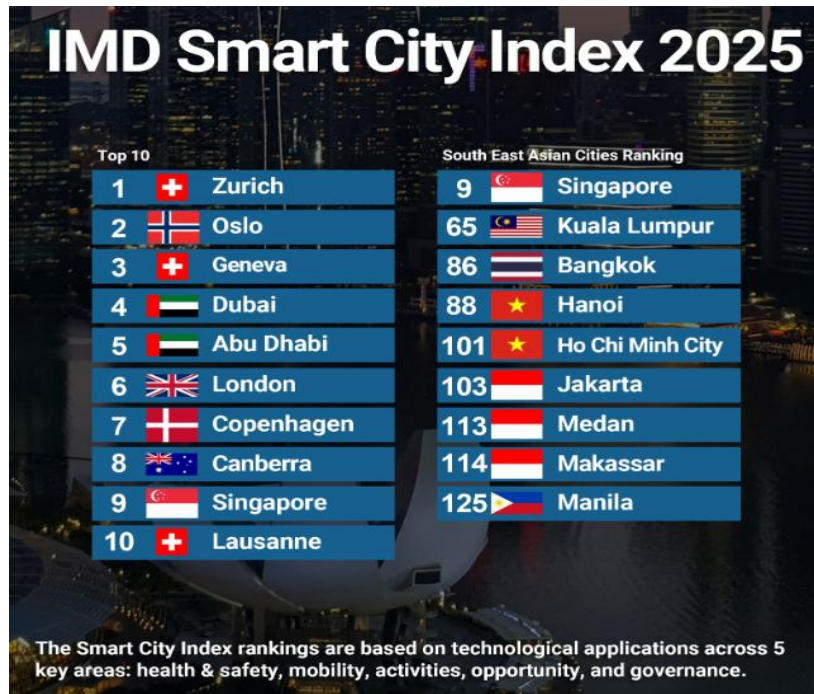
- ❖ Nepal officially joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) by signing the Framework Agreement.
- ❖ The IBCA is a coalition of over 90 countries focused on conserving seven big cat species worldwide.
- ❖ Nepal's landscape includes snow leopard, tiger, and common leopard, enhancing global conservation efforts.
- ❖ Nepal has nearly tripled its tiger population from 121 in 2009 to 355 in 2022.
- ❖ India launched the IBCA in 2023 to promote collaboration and resource sharing among big cat range countries.
- ❖ The alliance supports joint action for ecological security and big cat protection worldwide.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Smart Cities in the World for 2025

- ❖ The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) released the Smart City Index 2025.
- ❖ Zurich ranked first with an AAA rating, followed by Oslo and Geneva, both with AAA ratings.
- ❖ Dubai made the biggest jump from 12th to 4th place, with an A rating.

- ❖ London improved two spots to rank 6th, with an AA rating.
- ❖ Lausanne took the 10th position, marking three Swiss cities in the top ten.
- ❖ The index evaluates cities on health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance.
- ❖ Indian cities ranked outside the global top 100 in the 2025 index.
- ❖ Delhi (CC), Mumbai (CC), Hyderabad (CCC), and Bengaluru (CC) ranked 104th, 106th, 109th, and 110th, respectively.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

100 years of Vitthalbhai Patel's presidency

- ❖ The two-day All India Speakers' Conference was held at the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The conference commemorated 100 years since Vitthalbhai Patel became the first elected Indian President of the Central Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ He established practices that continue to guide the work of legislative Speakers.
- ❖ The Legislative Department and Secretariat were established in the Centre and states during his tenure.
- ❖ Vitthalbhai Patel emphasized the independence of legislative assemblies from government control.

- ❖ The Central Legislative Assembly was the Lower House of the legislature of British India.
- ❖ The House had initially convened in the building that currently houses the Delhi Assembly.

24th – 25th August 2025

On the
100th Anniversary
of the country's first speaker
Veer Vithalbhaji Patel Ji

**Highlights of the centenary year celebrations
held in Delhi Legislative Assembly**

Veer Vithalbhaji Patel took oath as Speaker on **24 August 1925**

Today's **Delhi Vidhan Sabha** used to be the country's Parliament at that time.


Patel ji's fearlessness, determination and legislative functioning laid a strong foundation of India's parliamentary democracy.

He started the tradition of **'The speaker is only the servant of the house'**

Patel Ji established such traditions of parliamentary conduct and discipline that are still regarded as the backbone of Indian democracy.

The Delhi Assembly itself is a historical heritage of Indian democracy. It has witnessed many historical moments.

This conference is a celebration of India's democratic tradition and an opportunity to bring together the assemblies and parliaments of the country on one platform.



SPORTS NEWS

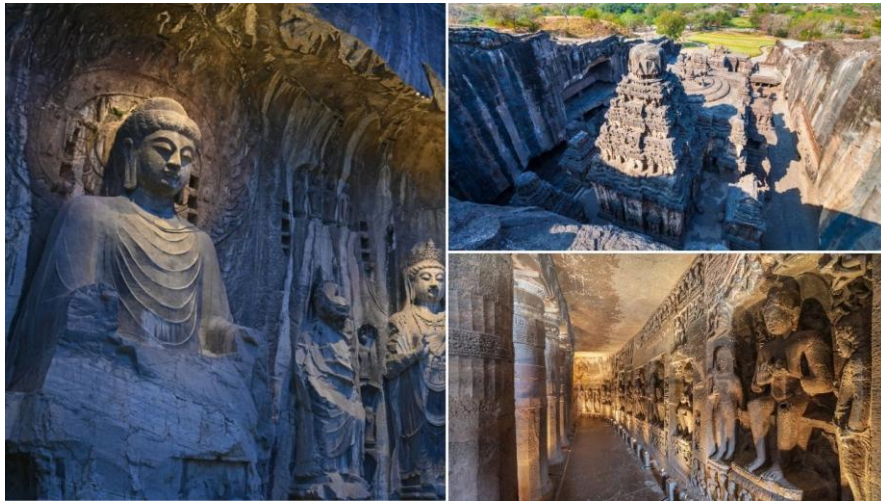
Durand Cup 2025



- ❖ NorthEast United Football Club (FC) won the Durand Cup for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The 134th edition of the Durand Cup was held at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
- ❖ Six Indian Super League (ISL) teams participated in Asia's oldest football tournament.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

10 UNESCO World Heritage Caves Around the World



- ❖ Mammoth Cave National Park in the USA is the world's longest cave system, spanning over 643 kilometers.
- ❖ Carlsbad Caverns National Park, also in the USA, features more than 119 caves, including the large Big Room chamber.
- ❖ Elephanta Caves in Maharashtra, India, showcase ancient Hindu and Buddhist rock-cut sculptures.
- ❖ The Ajanta Caves in India contain Buddhist temples with paintings and sculptures dating back to the 2nd century BCE.
- ❖ Ellora Caves in India include rock-cut temples representing Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism from the 6th to 10th century.
- ❖ The Škocjan Caves in Slovenia are among the largest underground canyons shaped by the Reka River.
- ❖ Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Vietnam contains Hang Son Doong, the world's largest cave passage.



- ❖ Gunung Mulu National Park in Malaysia is famous for the Sarawak Chamber, one of the largest cave chambers.
- ❖ Mogao Caves in China have 735 caves with Buddhist art from 366 CE.
- ❖ Sterkfontein Caves in South Africa are part of the Cradle of Humankind and are important for human evolution studies.

