



August - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal in the women's 49 kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Malaysia has launched Ryt Bank, the world's first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered bank, developed by YTL Group in partnership with Sea Limited for Malaysians.
- ❖ Indonesia, the United States, and allied nations have launched the annual military exercise "Super Garuda Shield 2025" to strengthen regional security amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Expansion of CM Breakfast Scheme - August 2025

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the extension of the breakfast scheme in government-aided schools in urban areas at Chennai
- ❖ It will benefit students from Classes 1 to 5 studying in government-aided schools in urban areas.
- ❖ According to a government release, the expansion of the scheme covers 2,430 government-aided primary schools in towns and cities, benefiting 3.06 lakh students in classes 1 to 5.
- ❖ In total, the scheme now reaches 17.53 lakh children across 34,987 schools.
- ❖ CM Stalin said 20 lakh students will receive nutritious meals through this scheme and Rs 600 crore will be allocated every year for this initiative
- ❖ Speaking on the occasion, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann heaped praise on his Tamil Nadu counterpart for the expansion of the scheme.
- ❖ Mann said he will discuss the scheme with his Cabinet colleagues for its implantation in Punjab, as the state was food surplus.
- ❖ CM Stalin, on May 6, 2022 announced in the Assembly that a free breakfast program would be introduced for students from Class I to V.
- ❖ The first phase of this initiative was launched on September 15, 2022 in Madurai.
- ❖ So far, the programme was implemented in government-run primary schools across the State and State-aided primary schools located only in rural areas.



- ❖ In March 2023, the programme was expanded to government primary schools in corporation and municipality areas.
- ❖ In August that year (2023), it was expanded to all government primary schools in the State.
- ❖ In July 2024, the programme was further expanded to all government-aided primary schools in rural areas.
- ❖ With the latest expansion to urban areas, students in government-aided schools will be covered.
- ❖ This expansion marks the 5th phase of the scheme's implementation.
- ❖ It has yielded positive outcomes: increase in attendance, enhanced attention span, and reduction in morbidity rates in primary school-going children.
- ❖ It also led to a 63.2% decline in hospital admissions among children in primary classes in government schools and a 70.6% reduction in serious illnesses, between December 2023 and December 2024.
- ❖ The State Planning Commission, during an evaluation of the programme, found that it improved eating behaviour in children, fostered positive habits, increased socialisation with other children, showed perceived improvement in the child's health, increased willingness to go to school.
- ❖ It also showed improvement in studies and engagement in class.
- ❖ To address quality concerns, the breakfast, noon meal schemes have now adopted two models.
- ❖ One is common "cloud kitchens" in cities, where automated cooking ensures uniformity.
- ❖ Another one is self-help groups in villages, where parents themselves cook for the children.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government was the first large State in the country that announced to provide HPV vaccination to all girls aged 14 years to prevent cervical cancer.

Political tradition

- ❖ The practice of promising food or goods dates back to the 1967 Assembly elections.
- ❖ Then Annadurai pledged three seers (3.7 kg) of rice for Rs 1 to fight poverty and hunger.
- ❖ In the 1989 state polls, the DMK promised 5 kg of rice to all ration cardholders.
- ❖ In 2006, AIADMK offered Rs 2,000 cash assistance for families, while the DMK pledged colour televisions and two acres of farmland to farm labourers.
- ❖ The 2011 polls saw the DMK promise free laptops for students, along with a grinder or mixie and 35 kg of rice for every household, while the AIADMK

promised free laptops for Class 11 and 12 students, a fan, a mixie, and 20 kg of rice.

- ❖ After winning, late AIADMK leader J Jayalalithaa delivered the laptops and other items, but branded them “Amma” products.
- ❖ In 2016, the AIADMK went further, promising free mobile phones to all ration cardholders, 100 units of free power to households, and a cow and goat scheme for the poor.
- ❖ The DMK, notably, stayed away from such promises that year.
- ❖ In the noon meal scheme, too, over time, both the DMK and AIADMK expanded on these commitments.
- ❖ Late DMK chief Karunanidhi added eggs to the noon meal in 1989, three eggs a week in 2007, and five by 2010, with bananas for vegetarians.
- ❖ Jayalalithaa later introduced “variety rice”.



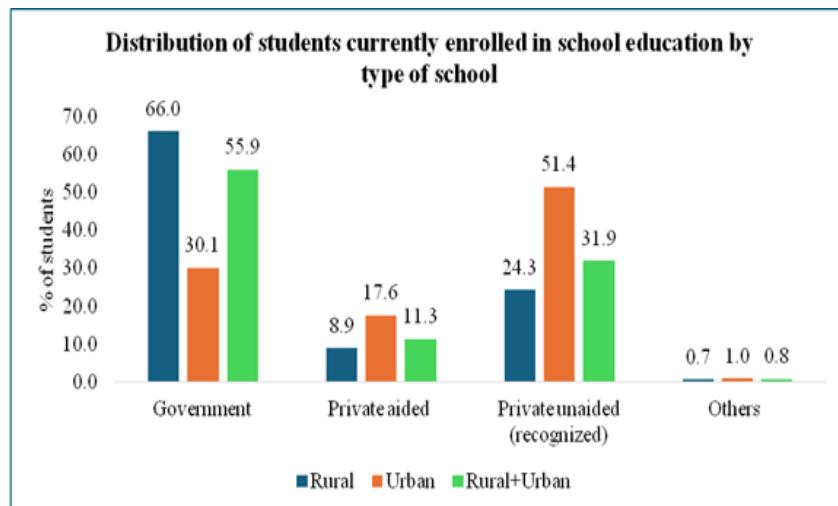
NATIONAL NEWS

Comprehensive Modular Survey 2025

- ❖ The Comprehensive Modular Survey (CMS) on Education under the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) studied household spending on school education for currently enrolled students.
- ❖ Government schools accounted for 55.9 percent of total enrolments, with 66.0 percent in rural areas and 30.1 percent in urban areas.



- ❖ Only 26.7 percent of government school students paid course fees, compared to 95.7 percent in non-government schools.
- ❖ In private unaided schools in urban areas, 98.0 percent of students reported paying course fees.
- ❖ Household spending per student was ₹2,863 in government schools and ₹25,002 in non-government schools.
- ❖ Course fees were the highest expense for households, averaging ₹7,111 per student, followed by ₹2,002 for textbooks and stationery.
- ❖ Urban students incurred ₹15,143 on course fees on average, while rural students spent ₹3,979.
- ❖ Nearly 27.0 percent of students took private coaching, with 30.7 percent in urban areas and 25.5 percent in rural areas.
- ❖ Average household spending on coaching was ₹3,988 in urban areas and ₹1,793 in rural areas.
- ❖ At the higher secondary level, coaching costs were ₹9,950 in urban areas and ₹4,548 in rural areas.
- ❖ Family members were the main source of education funding for 95.0 percent of students across India.
- ❖ Only 1.2 percent of students reported government scholarships as their primary funding source.



Project Aarohan

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched Project Aarohan to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees' children.

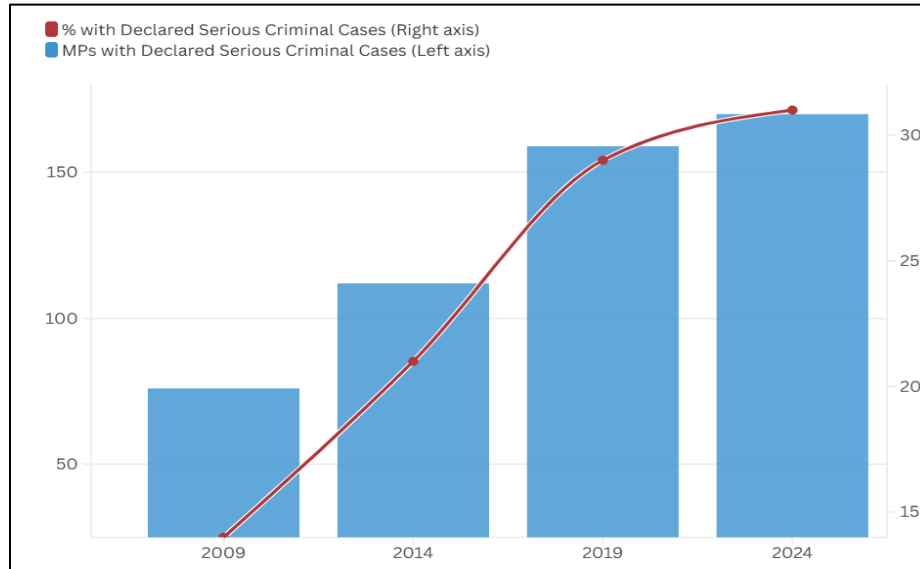
- ❖ The project was launched in collaboration with Vertis Infrastructure Trust in New Delhi.
- ❖ Project Aarohan aims to remove financial barriers and promote equal access to quality education for students from weaker sections.
- ❖ It focuses on supporting girls, first-generation learners, and students from SC, ST, OBCs and minority communities.
- ❖ The first phase of the project will be implemented by Bharat Cares, an initiative of SMEC Trust.
- ❖ A fund of ₹1 crore has been allocated for the first phase, running from July 2025 to March 2026.
- ❖ The project will support 500 students from Class 11 to graduation, each receiving an annual scholarship of ₹12,000.
- ❖ It will also support 50 students pursuing higher studies with scholarships of ₹50,000 each.



Criminal charges against MPs and MLAs

- ❖ An analysis shows that 31% of Members of Parliament (MPs) and 29% of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have declared serious criminal charges.
- ❖ Serious criminal charges include offenses punishable by five years or more, or those that are non-bailable.
- ❖ The share of Lok Sabha MPs facing such charges doubled from 14% in 2009 to 31% in 2024.
- ❖ Telangana has the highest percentage of MPs with serious charges at 71%, followed by Bihar at 48%.
- ❖ Among parties, the BJP has 63 MPs (26%) facing serious cases, while the Congress has 32 MPs (32%).

- ❖ For MLAs, Andhra Pradesh leads with 56% facing serious charges, and Uttar Pradesh has the highest number at 154 MLAs (38%).
- ❖ The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have over 60% of their MLAs facing serious cases.



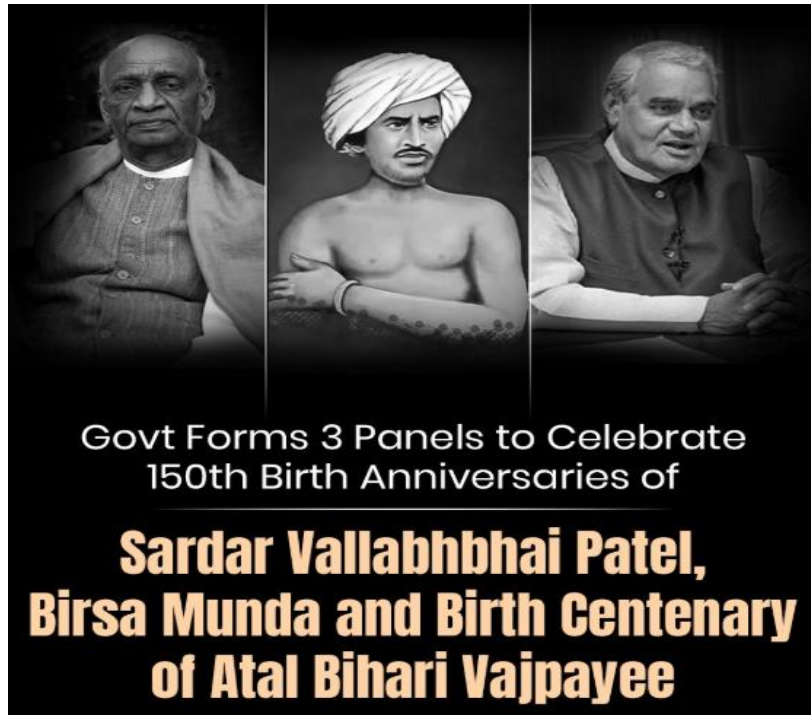
EV Manufacturing Initiatives in Gujarat



- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated green mobility initiatives in Hansalpur, Gujarat, and flagged off the e-Vitara, Suzuki's first made-in-India global strategic battery electric vehicle.
- ❖ Three Japanese companies will jointly manufacture battery cells in India for the first time at the TDS (Toshiba-Denso-Suzuki) Lithium-Ion Battery plant.

- ❖ Maruti Suzuki developed a hybrid ambulance prototype under the PM E-Drive scheme.

Panels to honour national leaders

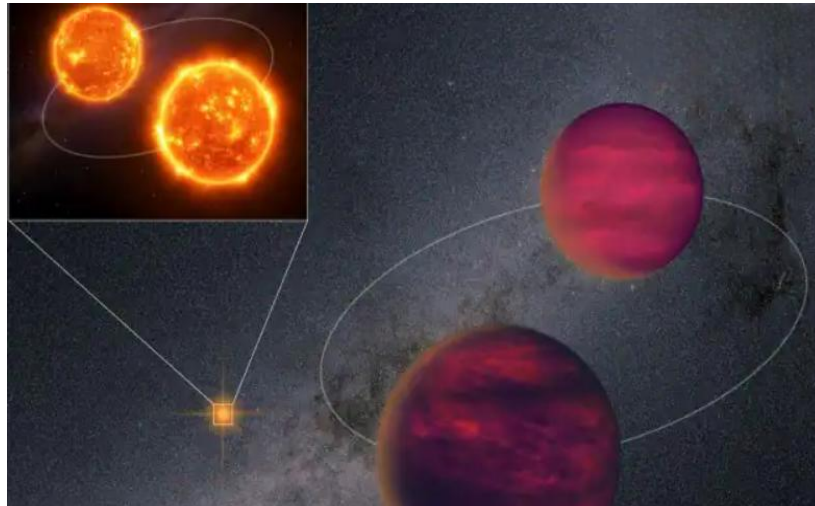


- ❖ The Centre has constituted three high-level committees to mark the 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Birsa Munda, and the 100th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ Prime Minister will chair all three committees, as notified in separate gazette publications.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture issued the gazette notification for Sardar Patel's committee on August 25, 2025.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, born on October 31, 1875, was India's first home minister and is remembered as the 'Iron Man of India.'
- ❖ The committee for Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary was notified on August 23, 2025.
- ❖ Birsa Munda is honoured as a tribal icon and freedom fighter who led movements against British rule.
- ❖ A separate notification was issued on August 25, 2025, for the committee to celebrate Vajpayee's birth centenary.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as Prime Minister in three terms, including a full term from 1999 to 2004.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

UPM J1040-3551 AabBab

- ❖ Scientists discovered a rare quadruple star system called UPM J1040-3551 AabBab.
- ❖ The system has two cold brown dwarfs orbiting two young red dwarf stars, a unique configuration.
- ❖ Brown dwarfs are “failed stars” that form like stars but lack the mass to fuse hydrogen and shine brightly.
- ❖ They are hard to detect because they are cold and faint, so they are often found near brighter companion stars.
- ❖ This discovery is significant as it is the first quadruple system with two T-type brown dwarfs orbiting a pair of stars.

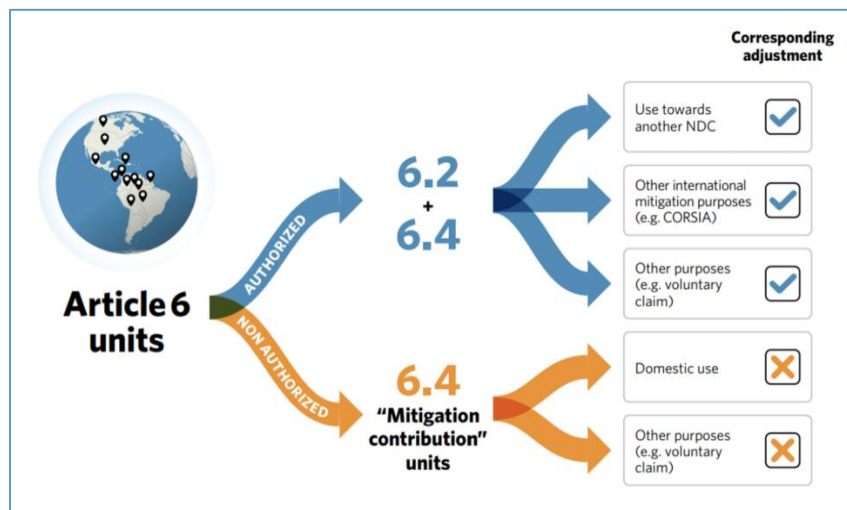


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Carbon Markets Under the Paris Agreement

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has finalised the National Designated Authority (NDA) to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The NDA is a 21-member committee headed by the secretary of the Environment Ministry, as notified on August 22, 2025.
- ❖ The Members include officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Renewable Energy, Steel Ministry, NITI Aayog, and maximum representation is from the Environment Ministry.

- ❖ Article 6, passed at COP29 in Baku in 2024, defines the rules for global carbon markets under the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The NDA is responsible for approving emission reduction projects, recommending eligible activities for carbon trading, and authorising the use of emission units towards national climate goals.
- ❖ The carbon market mechanism aims to ensure the transparency and credibility of carbon credits generated under United Nations supervision.
- ❖ India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) aim to cut the emission intensity of GDP by 45 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- ❖ India also targets 50 percent of power capacity from non-fossil fuels and to create 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon sink through afforestation by 2030.



Voluntary National Review on SDG

- ❖ India presented its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on SDGs at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- ❖ The VNR process allows countries to assess and present their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ India's 2025 report follows previous submissions in 2017 and 2020.
- ❖ NITI Aayog led the VNR preparation through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach involving all levels of administration and civil society.
- ❖ The SDG localization model involved active participation from districts, blocks, and villages.
- ❖ Extreme poverty reduced sharply from 16.2% in 2011–12 to 2.3% in 2022–23, lifting 171 million people.

- ❖ Food grain production increased from 204.6 million tonnes in 2004–05 to 332.3 million tonnes in 2023–24.
- ❖ Women now hold over 45% of elected seats in deliberative local government bodies.
- ❖ The rate of child marriage among women aged 20–24 declined from 47% in 2005–06 to 23.3% in 2019–21.
- ❖ The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) increased tap water access in rural households from 17% in 2019 to over 80%.
- ❖ Non-fossil fuel sources now contribute 47.37% of India's installed electricity generation capacity.
- ❖ India's rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) improved from 48th in 2020 to 39th in 2024.
- ❖ The VNR 2025 reflects India's inclusive, innovative, and data-driven journey toward achieving the 2030 Agenda and building Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

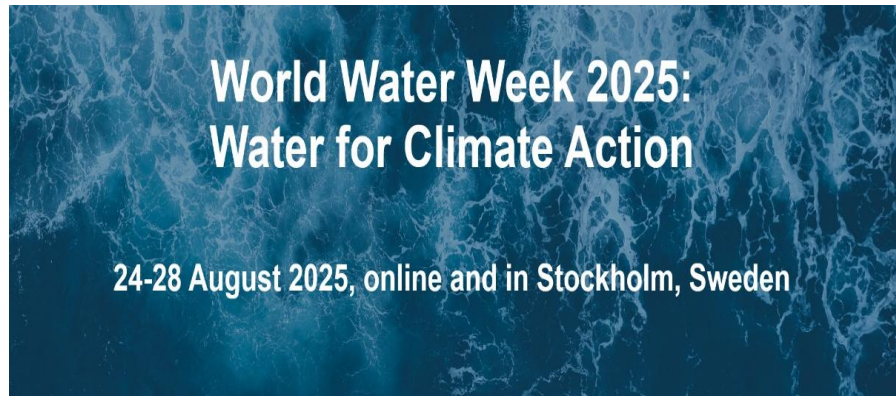


IMPORTANT DAYS

World Water Week 2025 – August 24/28

- ❖ It is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is Water for Climate Action.
- ❖ 1 in 4 – or 2.1 billion people globally – still lack access to safely managed drinking water.
- ❖ 106 million people drink directly from untreated surface sources.

- ❖ 1.7 billion people still lack basic hygiene services at home, including 611 million without access to any facilities.



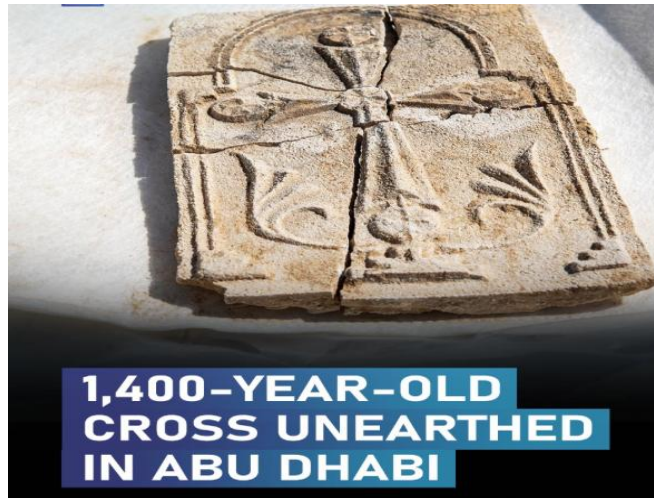
Small Industry Day 2025 - August 30



- ❖ It celebrates the immense contribution of small-scale industries to India's economic growth, employment, and innovation.
- ❖ On this day in 2000, Ministry of Small-Scale Industries (SSI) had launched a comprehensive policy package for SSI Sector.
- ❖ Indian MSMEs contributes around 30.1% to India's GDP and hold around 45.79% share in all India exports 2024.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the United Nations General Assembly designates international MSMEs day on June 27 annually.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Christian settlement in Abu Dhabi



- ❖ Archaeologists discovered a plaster cross dating back 1,400 years on Sir Bani Yas Island near Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The cross was found in the courtyard of houses first discovered in 1992, linked to a nearby church and monastery.
- ❖ This discovery provides concrete evidence that the houses were part of a Christian settlement.
- ❖ Experts believe senior monks lived in these small houses for prayer and fasting away from the main monastery.
- ❖ Christian communities thrived in the region around the sixth century, coexisting with Muslims before the monastery was abandoned in the eighth century.

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