

July - 22

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Education Minister inaugurated the India campus of the University of Southampton of the UK in Gurugram, Haryana.
  - This marks the first foreign university to establish a campus in India under the University Grants Commission's new regulations.
- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been conferred the National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025 for its exceptional application of open-source spatial technologies.
  - INCOIS is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), headquartered in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Tesla of the USA made its official entry with the opening of its first showroom, dubbed the Tesla Experience Centre, in Mumbai.
  - Bookings open for Model Y, which will be imported from Tesla's factory in China.
- ❖ Maharashtra CM has laid the foundation stone of Vidarbha's first-of-its-kind in the region 4.5 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Konsari in Gadchiroli district.
  - The project is being launched in one of India's most Naxal-affected belts.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Naagam App



- ❖ On World Snake Day (July 16), the Tamil Nadu Forest Department launched the NAAGAM mobile app at the Children's Park in Guindy.

- ❖ The event has also featured the release of a booklet on 'Common Snakes of Tamil Nadu' and the launch of a structured snake rescuer training program.
- ❖ The event honoured Padma Shri awardees Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sathayan from the Irular tribe for their contributions to snake rescue and conservation.
- ❖ The app allows the citizens to report snake sightings, enabling trained rescuers to respond swiftly and ethically.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to 142 snake species.

### **Tamilnadu Day 2025 - July 18**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu was created on 1 November 1956 with the name Madras State.
- ❖ On 18 July 1967, a resolution was passed unanimously in the Madras State Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ It was led by the government led by the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu, C. N. Annadurai, seeking to rename the state as Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 1967, all the political parties of the Madras State spoke in one voice on their demand to rename the state as Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was following a fasting protest by Sankaralinganar, resulting in his death on 13 October 1956 in Virudhunagar.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government built a memorial dedicated to Sankaralinganar in Virudhunagar in 2015.
- ❖ On 14 January 1969, the state was renamed as Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ In 2019, the Government of Tamil Nadu, led by the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami, announced November 1<sup>st</sup> as Tamil Nadu Day to mark the formation of the state.
- ❖ However, in July 2022, the Government of Tamil Nadu, led by the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, announced that 18 July of every year will be celebrated as Tamil Nadu Day from 2022 to mark the renaming of the state.

### **Madras High Court on Temple entry 2025**



- ❖ The Madras High Court observed that caste-based discrimination cannot be permitted in a country governed by the rule of law.
- ❖ It directed the Ariyalur Superintendent of Police to ensure that Scheduled Caste (SC) persons are not prevented from entering the Puthukudi Ayyanar Temple in Udayarpalayam taluk.
- ❖ It is directed to ensure that all classes of people, irrespective of their caste, are permitted to enter the temple and worship the deity at all times, including the annual festival being held at present.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947 was enacted to ensure that no one was denied temple entry based on their caste.

### **Chennai Institute of Journalism**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹7.75 crore for the Chennai Institute of Journalism (CIJ).
- ❖ The institute was set up under the Companies Act, 2013.

- ❖ N. Ravi, former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu and Director, Kasturi and Sons Limited, has been appointed the CIJ board's chairperson.
- ❖ Former Readers' Editor of The Hindu, A.S. Panneerselvam, has been named the institute's director-general.



### **Tamil Nadu in Swachh Survekshan survey 2024/25**

- ❖ Tiruchi Corporation has achieved the 49th rank, out of 95 cities with a population between 3 lakh and 10 lakhs.
- ❖ In the 2023-24 survey, the city bagged the 112th position out of 446 major cities across the country.
- ❖ Tiruchi has topped the State in this category and placed ninth in the overall State rankings.
- ❖ The Ministry has certified Tiruchi Corporation as an ODF++ (open defecation free ++ ) achiever.
- ❖ Coimbatore City has secured the 28th position.
- ❖ This marks a significant improvement from its 35th rank in 2023.
- ❖ And the city now holds the top position in Tamil Nadu among cities with over 10 lakh population.
- ❖ Coimbatore also received the ODF++ certification, an upgrade from its previous ODF status.
- ❖ This certification indicates that the city not only ensures there is no open defecation and maintains clean and functional public toilets, but also has effective systems in place for the safe collection, treatment, and disposal of faecal waste, including in areas not connected to sewer networks.
- ❖ Among Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with a population of over 10 lakhs, Chennai ranked 38th out of 40, and 104th within Tamil Nadu overall.



- ❖ Indore also achieved a 7-star Garbage Free City (GFC) rating, whereas Chennai received none.
- ❖ Coimbatore ranked 28th (10 lakh+ category)
- ❖ Madurai ranked 40th (bottom of the list)
- ❖ Trichy ranked 49th (3-10 lakh category)
- ❖ The Swachh Survekshan, launched in 2014, is conducted annually to assess urban local bodies on various sanitation and waste management parameters.
- ❖ It was according to the data released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

<b>SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2024-25</b>			
TN Cities	Marks	National rank	Category
Coimbatore	8,347	28	10 lakh+
Trichy	8,239	49	3-10 lakh
Chennai	6,822	38	10 lakh+
Madurai	4,823	40	10 lakh+

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Secret Spousal Recordings in Divorce Cases**

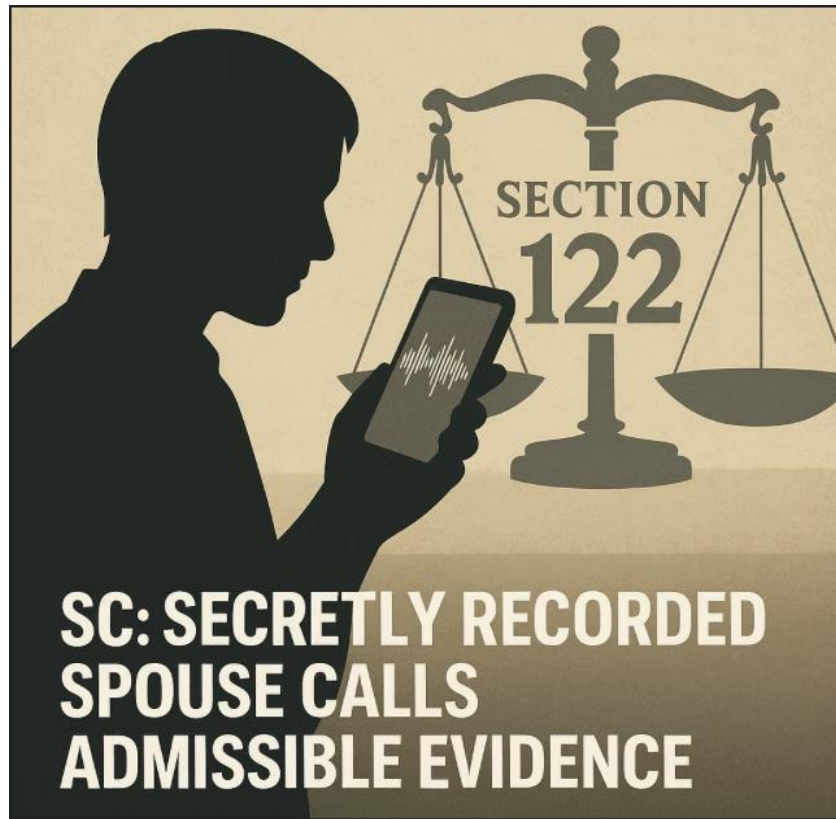
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India in Vibhor Garg v. Neha ruled that secretly recorded conversations between spouses can be used as evidence in matrimonial disputes, including divorce cases.
- ❖ The spouses' snooping on each other is proof that the marriage is not going strong and hence can be used in judicial proceedings.
- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court had held that the secret conversations between spouses are protected under Section 122 of the Evidence Act and cannot be used in judicial proceedings.
- ❖ The Supreme Court referred to a 1973 case where secret telephonic recordings were accepted as evidence in a corruption trial.
- ❖ It extended this reasoning to matrimonial disputes.
- ❖ The apex court's judgment reshapes the understanding of spousal privilege and privacy in Indian law.

### **Background**

- ❖ The Evidence Act was enacted in 1872, before privacy was recognised as a fundamental right in India in 2017.



- ❖ Spousal privilege protects private communication between married partners.
- ❖ It prevents a person from being forced to testify against their spouse in criminal cases.



### **14473 – Helpline number**

- ❖ The Centre has launched the helpline (14473) for waste pickers on the occasion of the 'National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Day' (July 16th).
- ❖ NAMASTE scheme is a human-centric approach of the government, where no Safai Karamchari has to do the hazardous work of cleaning sewers and septic tanks with their hands.
- ❖ The scheme was jointly launched by the Union Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and, Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It is being implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- ❖ It will run for a period of three years from FY 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- ❖ The scheme provides several entitlements for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).

- ❖ SSWs are being profiled through a digital application and provided PPE kits, access to safety equipment, occupational safety training, health insurance coverage and livelihood opportunities in the sanitation sector through subsidized vehicles/machines related to sanitation.



**NAMASTE Day was celebrated on 16th July 2025 at Mercury Hall, Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow, in the esteemed presence of Shri B. L. Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.**

### **SIMBEX 2025 – 32nd Edition**

- ❖ The Indian Navy will take part in the 32nd edition of SIMBEX, the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise later this month in Singapore.
- ❖ It was previously known as Exercise Lion King.
- ❖ The exercise supports India's Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and Act East policy.
- ❖ The maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise was held in 2023 and was co-hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- ❖ The recent complex HARD and SAR (Search and Rescue) operations by the Indian Navy were very successfully concluded in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ India will host the major future maritime events such as the International Fleet Review, Multinational Naval Exercise MILAN, and the IONS Conclave of Chiefs in Visakhapatnam in early 2026.



### **Ram Charan and Ors. Vs. Sukhram and Ors**

- ❖ The verdict in Ram Charan & Ors. vs. Sukhram & Ors was given from an appeal denying female inheritance based on tribal customs.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that tribal women are entitled to equal rights in ancestral property.
- ❖ It was stating that excluding female heirs solely based on gender is discriminatory and unconstitutional.
- ❖ Exclusion of the tribal women from inheritance violates Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Read together with Articles 38 and 46, they point to the collective ethos of the Constitution in ensuring that there is no discrimination against women.
- ❖ Even though the Hindu Succession Act 1956 does not apply to Scheduled Tribes, it doesn't imply automatic exclusion of tribal women from succession.
- ❖ The Court has emphasized that in the absence of any proven prohibitive custom or codified law barring women from inheritance, the principle of "justice, equity, and good conscience" must prevail.
- ❖ The judgment also clarified the incorrect understanding regarding the repeal of the Central Provinces Laws Act, 1875.
- ❖ The highlighted verdicts by the Supreme Court were the Mst. Sarwango v. Mst. Urchamahin (2013) and Tirith Kumar v. Daduram (2024).



- ❖ It was reversing the concurrent decisions of the Trial Court, the First Appellate Court, and the High Court of Chhattisgarh.

SC GRANTS EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS TO TRIBAL WOMAN'S HEIRS	
<p><i>Case Title: Ram Charan &amp; Ors. vs. Sukhram &amp; Ors.</i> BENCH: Justice Sanjay Karol Justice Joymalya Bagchi</p>	
<p><b>LEGAL PROVISIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2(2), Hindu Succession Act, 1956</li> <li>• Section 6, Central Provinces Laws Act, 1875</li> <li>• Article 14, 15(1), 38, 46 of the Constitution</li> </ul>	<p><b>ANALYSIS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No custom proven</li> <li>• Lower courts assumed patriarchal norms</li> <li>• Justice, equity, and good conscience invoked</li> <li>• Gender equality under Article 14 emphasize</li> </ul>
<p><b>CONCLUSION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appellants entitled to equal share</li> <li>• Decisions of lower courts set aside</li> </ul>	<p><b>CURRENT SCENARIO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landmark judgment for ST women's inheritance rights</li> <li>• Influences customary law interpretation in absence of codified rules</li> </ul>

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Voting age in the UK 2025 – from 18 to 16



- ❖ The Labour Party-led UK government announced its plans to lower the voting age to 16 in time for the next general election.
- ❖ It was the biggest change since 1969, when the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18.
- ❖ Registration will begin at the age of 14, under the proposed legislation.

- ❖ This change brings UK-wide elections in line with Scotland and Wales, which already allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote.
- ❖ The voter ID system will also now accept UK-issued bank debit and credit cards at polling stations.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### **‘Grandala’ electric-blue bird**



- ❖ A rare ‘Grandala’ electric-blue bird was recently spotted in Sainj Valley, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is the only species placed in the genus Grandala.
- ❖ It is an arboreal insectivore.
- ❖ It is found in Bhutan, India, Myanmar, and Nepal, as well as Tibet and other areas of China.
- ❖ It ranges across the northeastern Indian Subcontinent and some of the adjoining regions, existing primarily in the low-to-mid altitudes of the Himalayas.
- ❖ It is classified as ‘Least Concern’ under the IUCN Red List.

### **Bird endemism in Antarctica**

- ❖ The bird endemism in Antarctica and the southern hemisphere is highly underestimated, highlighting their unique biodiversity.
- ❖ Endemism means species exist only in specific geographic areas.

- ❖ The snow petrel, a strikingly white bird with black eyes and a black bill, is one of only three bird species ever observed at the South Pole.
- ❖ In fact, the Antarctic is the only place on Earth where this bird lives.
- ❖ There are two reasons why the global patterns of species endemism aren't well defined.
- ❖ First, the most common method used to calculate endemism tends to give higher values to places with more species overall – this is known as species richness.
- ❖ In addition, global studies of diversity often exclude comparatively species-poor areas.



- ❖ When sites that only contain a few species are left out, this influences the estimates of endemism for all other sites.
- ❖ The southern hemisphere has less landmass and more ocean than the northern hemisphere.
- ❖ This separation by vast oceans limits species' ranges and dispersal.
- ❖ As a result, bird communities in these isolated landmasses share fewer species, increasing local endemism.



- ❖ In contrast, the northern hemisphere species have larger, connected land areas allowing broader distribution.
- ❖ Northern species can shift their ranges across continuous land to cooler areas.
- ❖ Southern species are blocked by oceans and unsuitable habitats like Antarctica.
- ❖ It was found that southern-hemisphere communities showed higher rates of local endemism than northern-hemisphere communities across all aspects of diversity.
- ❖ The sub-Antarctic islands and the High Andes, as well as the several regions in Australia, Aotearoa, New Zealand, and the southern Africa, stand out as global hotspots of endemism.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### 2025 Hurun U30 list

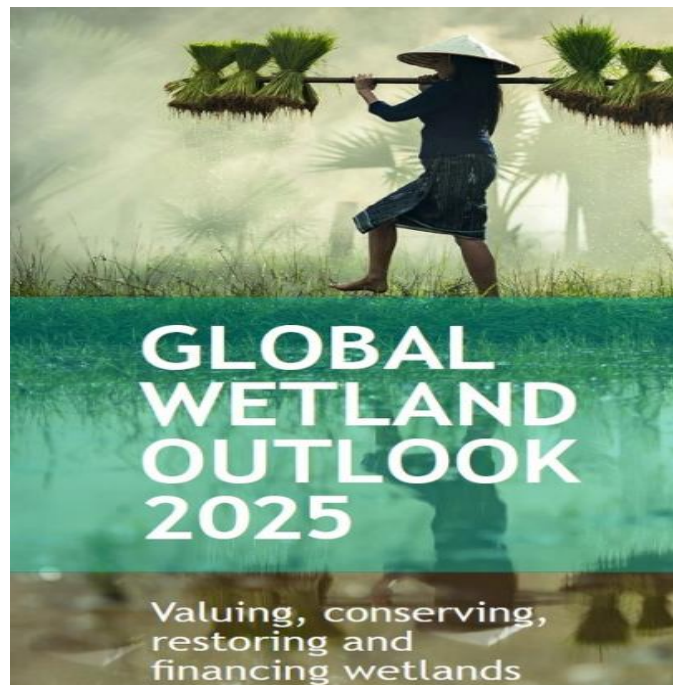
Rank	Name	Age	Company	Residence
1	Kaivalya Vohra	22	Zepto	Mumbai, Maharashtra
2	Aadit Palicha	22	Zepto	Mumbai, Maharashtra
3	AVR Shree Smaran	22	AVR Swarna Mahal Jewellers	Salem, Tamil Nadu
4	Arjun Deshpande	22	Generic Aadhaar	Thane, Maharashtra
5	Shiva A. Sankeshwar	23	Vijayanand Travels	Hubballi, Karnataka
6	Ujjwal Sukheja	24	Swish	Bengaluru, Karnataka
7	Saran S	24	Swish	Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu
8	Aniket Shah	25	Swish	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
9	Rahul Rawat	25	Digantara	Phagwara, Punjab
10	Mihir Menda	25	RMZ	Boston, Massachusetts – United States

- ❖ Zepto's young founders, Kaivalya Vohra and Aadit Palicha, have emerged at the top of the inaugural Avendus Wealth – Hurun India U30 List 2025.
- ❖ The list also marks the launch of the broader "Uth Series" by Avendus and Hurun India.
- ❖ It will also feature future editions for the under-35 and under-40 cohorts.
- ❖ This year's cohort includes the first-time founders and legacy leaders across tech, retail, healthcare, space, logistics, fintech, and AI.



- ❖ Among the other very young names are AVR Shree Smaran (AVR Swarna Mahal Jewellers), Arjun Deshpande (the Generic Aadhaar), and Mihir Menda (RMZ), alongside Digantara's Rahul Rawat and Swish co-founders Ujjwal Sukheja, Saran S, and Aniket Shah.

## **Global Wetland Outlook 2025**



- ❖ It was released by the Secretariat for the Convention on Wetlands - the Ramsar Convention (1971).
- ❖ The report also comes days ahead of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP15), scheduled for July 23-31 in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ It highlights the very urbanization and industrial development as key drivers of this decline.
- ❖ Africa's wetlands are among the most degraded globally, with millions relying on them for essential resources.
- ❖ The extent of deterioration is particularly high in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ❖ This is despite an increase in the same being recorded in Europe, North America and Oceania.
- ❖ While wetlands cover only six per cent of the Earth's surface, the world is losing wetlands at an annual rate of 0.52 per cent.
- ❖ It is valued at the equivalent of 7.5 per cent of global GDP.



- ❖ The Ramsar Convention's strategic goals align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) Targets.
- ❖ Ramsar is an Intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- ❖ India ratified it in 1982.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### 57th International Chemistry Olympiad 2025 – UAE



- ❖ India's student team has won two gold and two silver medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad 2025 in Dubai.
- ❖ India stands at 6<sup>th</sup> among 90 participating nations, alongside the countries like Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Israel.
- ❖ This year marks India's 26th appearance at the IChO.
- ❖ The gold medals were won by Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya from Jalgaon, Maharashtra, and Sandeep Kuchi from Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The silver medals went to Debadatta Priyadarshi from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and Ujjwal Kesari from New Delhi.

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