

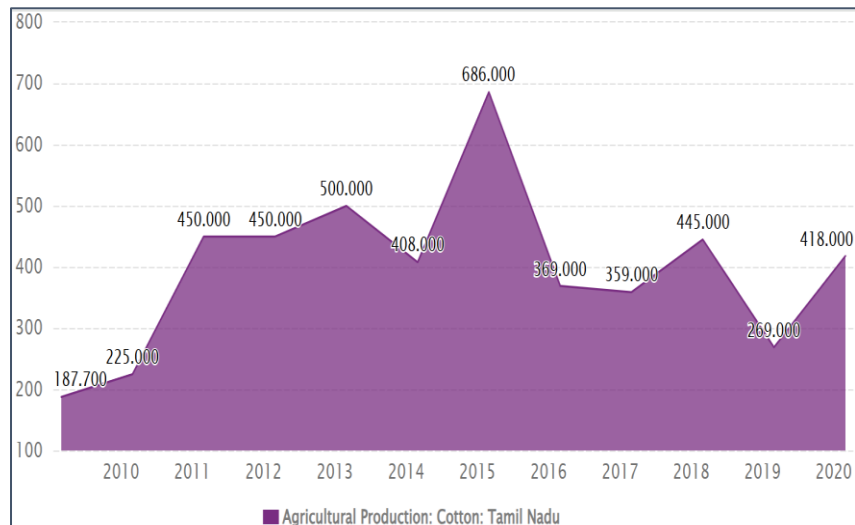


September - 04

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Tamil Nadu Cotton Farmers on MSP

- ❖ Cotton farmers in Tamil Nadu are not benefiting from Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).
- ❖ Since 2021, CCI has not procured any cotton from Tamil Nadu farmers despite its mandate to do so when prices fall below MSP.
- ❖ Cotton cultivation in Tamil Nadu is spread across 19 districts covering nearly 70,000 hectares, but ginning factories are located 100 to 200 km away.
- ❖ CCI procurement rules require a minimum of 3,000 hectares of cotton cultivation in a taluk and a ginning factory within 20 km to set up a procurement centre.
- ❖ Transport costs to ginning factories in Tamil Nadu are about ₹500 per quintal, but MSP operations do not cover transportation expenses.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh supports farmers by covering transportation costs, and similar support is recommended for Tamil Nadu to aid cotton growers.



### Underwater Archaeological Survey

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology will start an underwater survey off the Poompuhar-Nagapattinam coast in mid-September 2025.
- ❖ The survey aims to investigate submerged remains and uncover Tamil Nadu's maritime history.
- ❖ The Experts from the Indian Maritime University, National Institute of Ocean Technology, and National Institute of Oceanography will assist in the study.

- ❖ Previous surveys in the 1980s and early 2000s revealed underwater structures and shipwrecks in the region.



### **DGP Appointment in Tamil Nadu**



- ❖ Senior Indian Police Service Officer G. Venkatraman has been appointed as the Director-General of Police in charge of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He assumed office on August 31, 2025, succeeding Shankar Jiwal.
- ❖ He will hold office until a regular Director-General of Police is appointed.
- ❖ The appointment of a regular Director-General of Police will follow Supreme Court guidelines from the Prakash Singh case of 2018.

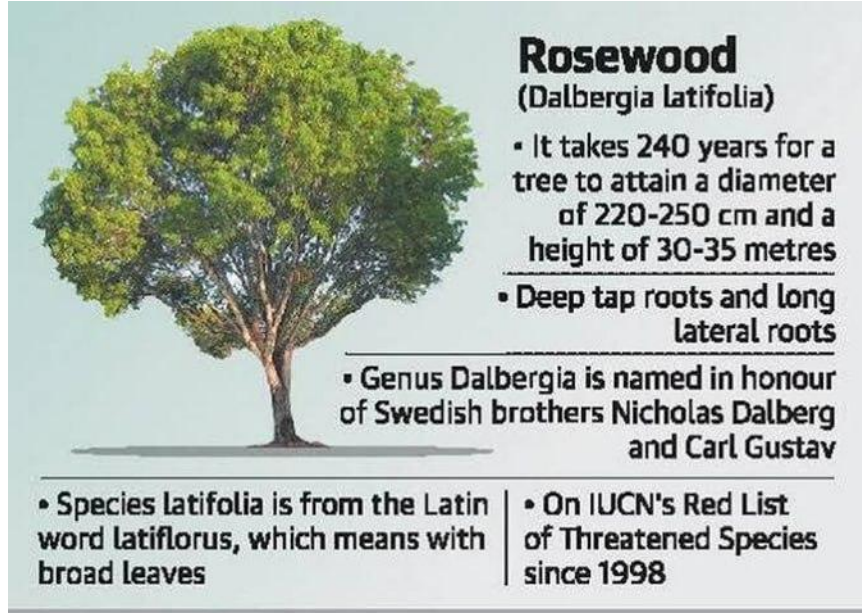


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sent a list of eight Director-General of Police rank officers to the Union Public Service Commission for empanelment.
- ❖ The top three names will be shortlisted by the Union Public Service Commission and sent back to the state for final appointment.
- ❖ This is the first time in recent years that Tamil Nadu has not immediately followed the Supreme Court ruling on appointing the Director-General of Police.
- ❖ In 2018, K. Ramanujam was appointed with a fixed two-year tenure following the Prakash Singh case.
- ❖ The delay in sending the proposal for the new Director-General of Police to the UPSC caused the current temporary appointment.

### **Indian Rosewood Trees**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government did not renew the Tamil Nadu Rosewood (Conservation) Act, 1995, beyond February 2025.
- ❖ Indian rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*) is native to Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris, Anamalai, and Parambikulam ranges.
- ❖ Only 17.2% of India's suitable habitat for Indian rosewood lies within protected areas.
- ❖ Rosewood trees improve soil fertility through nitrogen fixation.
- ❖ They support bird and insect diversity and act as long-term carbon sinks.
- ❖ Recent field studies from 2019 to 2025 show Tamil Nadu has 2.85 rosewood trees per 0.1 hectare.
- ❖ Karnataka and Kerala recorded higher densities with 6.19 and 5.38 trees per 0.1 hectare, respectively.
- ❖ Populations in Tamil Nadu are dominated by mature, ageing trees with almost no natural regeneration.
- ❖ Seedlings of rosewood are rare or absent in many areas of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Conservation Act prohibited cutting rosewood without government permission until it lapsed in 2025.
- ❖ Private rosewood trees, especially in Nilgiris tea plantations, are at risk without legal protection.
- ❖ Habitat modelling identified Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Dindigul, and Theni as core districts for rosewood.
- ❖ Indian rosewood is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

- ❖ The species has been classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2018.
- ❖ India's last national assessment in 2011-12 listed Indian rosewood as Near Threatened.



### Tharangambadi Danish Fort



- ❖ The Danish Fort at Tharangambadi was built in 1620 by Danish nobleman Ove Gjedde.
- ❖ The fort spans 36,410 square feet and is over 400 years old.
- ❖ The fort was used as a base for Danish settlers and is a symbol of Denmark's colonial presence in India.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology sanctioned ₹3.63 crore for the fort's restoration.



- ❖ Restoration work on the fort began on June 1, 2023.
- ❖ The Governor's Bungalow at Tharangambadi was built in 1793.
- ❖ It was used by Danish governors and later taken over by the British in 1845.
- ❖ The two-storey bungalow covers 10,220 square feet.
- ❖ The bungalow is known for its tall pillars, central courtyard, and grand halls.
- ❖ A total of ₹4.33 crore was sanctioned for restoring the Governor's Bungalow.
- ❖ The restoration work is expected to be completed by November 2025.

### Blue Flag Expansion in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ The Environment, Climate Change, and Forest Department of Tamil Nadu has selected six beaches for Blue Flag certification.
- ❖ The selected beaches include Tiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam, and Uthandi in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.
- ❖ Kulasekarapattinam beach in Thoothukudi, Keezhpathupattu beach in Villupuram, and Samiyarpettai beach in Cuddalore are also included.
- ❖ Each beach will receive ₹4 crore for upgradation, totalling ₹24 crore.
- ❖ Funds are allocated under the Tamil Nadu Sustainable Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) scheme.
- ❖ The Blue Flag certification requires compliance with 33 international criteria.
- ❖ These criteria cover marine water quality, environmental education, safety, tourist facilities, and environmental management.

- ❖ Marina Beach, Silver Beach, Kameshwaram Beach, and Ariyamaan Beach were previously approved by the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority.
- ❖ Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu was Tamil Nadu's first Blue Flag-certified beach in September 2021.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Nomination of members to NDMA**



- ❖ The Prime Minister nominated two new members and renominated three existing members to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- ❖ Scientist Dinesh Kumar Aswal and disaster recovery specialist Rita Missal were nominated as new members of the NDMA.
- ❖ Rajendra Singh, Krishna Swaroop Vatsa, and Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retired) were renominated for another three-year term.
- ❖ The appointments are made under Section 3(2)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, for a term of three years or until further orders.
- ❖ The Prime Minister serves as the Chairperson of the NDMA, which is the apex body for disaster management in India.
- ❖ The NDMA is responsible for formulating policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

### **Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies**

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has registered eight agencies as Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs).

- ❖ This was made under the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024.
- ❖ The registrations were granted on August 27, 2025, and are valid for five years, subject to compliance with regulations.
- ❖ The eight registered DCRA's include Ardom Towergen, Crest Digitel, CTL Infocom, ESTEX Telecom, Frog Cellsat, Phistream Consulting, Shaurrya Teleservices, and TUV SUD South Asia.
- ❖ These agencies will assess digital infrastructure in buildings and assign star ratings based on a standardised methodology released by TRAI.
- ❖ Ratings will be based on criteria such as fibre readiness, mobile and Wi-Fi coverage, broadband speeds, and overall digital user experience.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

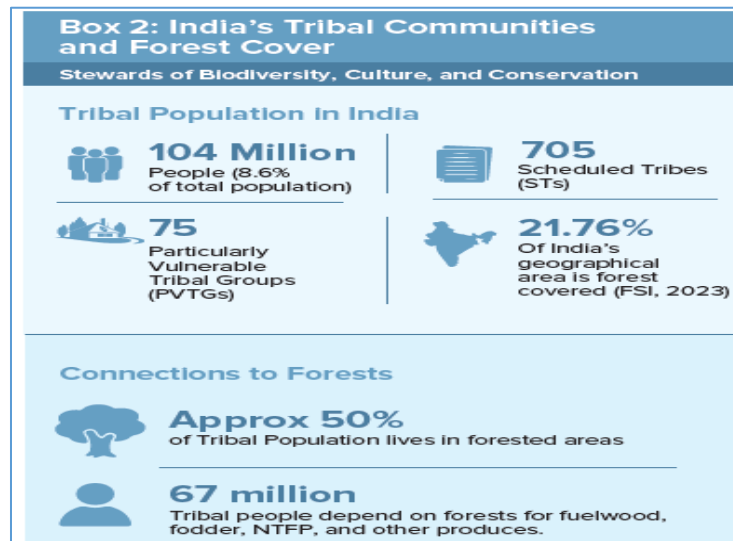
### 1<sup>st</sup> Purple Notice of Interpol



- ❖ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has secured its first Purple Notice from the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol).
- ❖ The Purple Notice alerts 196 member countries about a newly identified trade-based money laundering (TBML) network operating across borders.
- ❖ The notice details how shell companies used forged trade documents, under-invoiced imports, and circular re-exports to move illicit funds.
- ❖ The Purple Notice helps global agencies share intelligence on concealment methods and strengthens cooperation through networks like ARIN-AP and the Globe Network.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Forest Rights in India



- ❖ This 2025 report titled Securing Rights, Enabling Futures: Policy Lessons from Forest Rights Act and Future Pathways was released by UNDP India in partnership with the Foundation for Ecological Security.
- ❖ The Forest Rights Act (FRA), enacted in 2006, aims to recognise the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities in India.
- ❖ The study focuses on three Indian states with significant tribal populations: Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Globally, community land rights are linked to improved forest governance, climate resilience, and carbon mitigation, as noted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2019.
- ❖ By 31 May 2025, 25,11,375 titles have been distributed under FRA, covering 23.2 million acres of forest land.



- ❖ It included 5.07 million acres under individual and 18.19 million acres under community rights.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) supports FRA implementation through training, monitoring, and budget allocations under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).
- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with MoTA and six state governments to support FRA implementation and convergence with development programmes.

## Vaquitas Extinction



- ❖ Mexico's poor enforcement of the law led to the impending extinction of the vaquita porpoise, with just 10 remaining worldwide.
- ❖ Illegal gillnet fishing targeting totoaba fish in the Gulf of California is the main threat, as vaquitas get caught unintentionally in these nets.
- ❖ Despite a fishing gear ban since 2020, enforcement in Mexico remains weak, with fishing activities continuing at previous levels.
- ❖ The vaquita porpoise (little cow in Spanish) is the world's most endangered marine mammal, discovered in 1958.
- ❖ It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### State Energy Efficiency Index 2024

- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) released the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024, in collaboration with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

- ❖ The index assesses the energy efficiency performance of 36 States and Union Territories for the financial year 2023–24.
- ❖ States are grouped by total energy consumption (MToE) and ranked under four categories: Front Runners, Achievers, Contenders, and Aspirants.
- ❖ Top performers in their respective groups are Maharashtra (>15 MToE), Andhra Pradesh (5–15 MToE), Assam (1–5 MToE), and Tripura (<1 MToE).
- ❖ The SEEI 2024 supports data-driven policy, interstate learning, and India's net-zero goal by 2070.

