



September - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ethiopia officially inaugurated the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which is Africa's largest hydroelectric project and reached its full capacity of 5,150 MW.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has released the trailer for Wild Tamil Nadu, directed by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Kalyan Varma.
- ❖ Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the country's first woman Prime Minister on September 12, 2025.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) launched the 'Will to Win' campaign film ahead of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.
- ❖ Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison became the world's richest person in 2025, overtaking Elon Musk.
 - A record earnings report boosted Oracle's stock, adding \$101 billion to Ellison's net worth in one day, taking it to \$393 billion.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali at Gurugram, named after the Aravali Mountain range.
 - This base is designed to strengthen the Navy's information and communication infrastructure.
- ❖ Every year on September 9th, the World EV Day observed to raise awareness about electric vehicles (EVs) and accelerate the global shift toward sustainable transportation.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Atomic mineral mining

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government opposed the Centre's notification exempting atomic mineral mining from public consultation.
- ❖ He urged centre to withdraw the office memorandum issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ The memorandum, dated September 8, 2025, exempts projects involving atomic, critical, and strategic minerals from public consultation.

- ❖ TN cited past legal precedents, including the Supreme Court's 2020 judgment in *Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd. v. Rohit Prajapati*, against amending law through executive orders.

All mining projects of **atomic minerals** notified in Part B and critical and strategic minerals notified in Part D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act **have been exempted** from the requirement of public consultation.

The coastal districts of Tamil Nadu are endowed with deposits of Rare Earth Elements embedded in beach sand systems. These coasts are **ecologically fragile and highly vulnerable**.

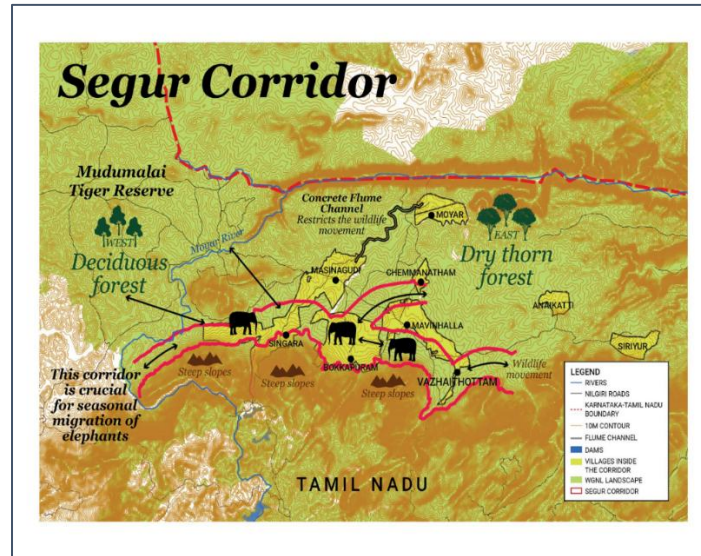
Mining in such regions is therefore inherently eco-sensitive and demands **rigorous scrutiny** with the fullest involvement of **local communities**.

Exempting projects from public consultation would **deprive local communities** of their right to raise legitimate concerns.

Policy changes of such significance must be deliberated transparently in **Parliament and State Legislatures**, with due consultation of the States and the public.

I urge the Union Government to **withdraw** the Office Memorandum dated 08.09.2025 **forthwith**.

Segur Elephant Corridor



- ❖ The Madras High Court upheld most findings of the Segur Plateau Elephant Corridor Inquiry Committee formed by the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The court allowed private landowners to retain and cultivate land in an eco-friendly manner without disturbing elephants or using artificial barriers.
- ❖ It set aside the committee's recommendation to hand over private properties to the Tamil Nadu government.

- ❖ The bench directed land acquisition for the corridor to begin within six months from the date of the order.
- ❖ Resort owners had challenged the validity of land purchase restrictions imposed after the 1991 private forest notification.
- ❖ The court noted that the Hospitality Association of Mudumalai had ongoing legal challenges related to the 1991 notification and 2010 corridor declaration.

NATIONAL NEWS

Combined Commanders Conference 2025

- ❖ Prime Minister was inaugurating the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference 2025 in Kolkata, West Bengal, from September 15 to 17.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is "Year of Reforms – Transforming for the Future."
- ❖ The conference will focus on reforms, transformation, operational preparedness, and technological modernization of the Armed Forces.



Adi Sanskriti

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the beta version of the Adi Sanskriti digital learning platform on September 11, 2025.
- ❖ Adi Sanskriti is aimed at preserving tribal artforms, promoting livelihoods, and connecting tribal communities globally.
- ❖ The platform is described as the world's first digital university dedicated to tribal culture and heritage.

- ❖ Adi Sanskriti consists of three components: Adi Vishwavidyalaya, Adi Sampada, and Adi Haat.
- ❖ Adi Vishwavidyalaya offers 45 immersive courses on tribal dance, painting, music, crafts, and folklore.
- ❖ Adi Sampada is a digital repository with over 5,000 curated documents covering tribal art, textiles, artefacts, and culture.
- ❖ Adi Haat is an e-commerce platform linked with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) for selling tribal products.
- ❖ The initiative is being developed in partnership with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) across 15 states.



Geotagging in Census 2026

- ❖ Geotagging will be conducted during the House listing Operations (HLO), the first phase of the Census, scheduled for April-September 2026.
- ❖ Enumerators will use smartphones to mark the exact latitude and longitude coordinates of each building on a Geographic Information System (GIS) map.
- ❖ Each building will be assigned a unique geotag, providing precise locational identity on digital maps.

- ❖ Buildings will be classified as residential, non-residential, partly residential, or landmark, with data on Census houses and households collected.
- ❖ This is the first time geotagging is being used nationwide in the Census; earlier exercises relied on hand-drawn sketches for house listing.
- ❖ The last Census (2011) recorded 330.84 million houses, of which 306.16 million were occupied.



Rules of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently notified Rules, Order and Exemption Order of this Act.
- ❖ It made the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 operational.
- ❖ Parliament passed this legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration in April.
- ❖ It repealed and replaced several Acts, such as the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000.
- ❖ For the first time, the Rules legally designate the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) to “examine cases of immigration fraud” and co-ordinate with the States to identify, deport or restrict the movement of foreigners and collate and maintain an immigration database among others.
- ❖ In another first, the Rules insert the legal provision for recording of biometric information of all foreigners.
- ❖ Foreigners Tribunals (FT), so far unique to Assam, have been given the powers of a first-class judicial magistrate.



- ❖ It paves the way to send a person to a detention or a holding centre if he or she fails to produce any proof, that they are “not a foreigner”.
- ❖ Earlier it was enforced through executive orders.
- ❖ The 2025 Order replaced the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964.
- ❖ It empowers foreign tribunals to issue arrest warrants if a person whose nationality has been contested fails to appear in person.
- ❖ A total of 100 FTs is currently operational in Assam.
- ❖ The number of FTs were enhanced after the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in 2019 in Assam on the orders of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The NRC is again unique to Assam.
- ❖ Though the Order is applicable across the country, FTs are functional only in Assam.
- ❖ In other States an illegal migrant is produced before a local court.
- ❖ The order also legally allows border guarding forces or the coast guard to prevent illegal migrants attempting to enter into India by sending them back after capturing their biometric information and available demographic details on the designated portal of the Central Government.
- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Assam Rifles (AR) posted along the Bangladesh and Myanmar borders had been practising this through executive orders of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Now, it has been stipulated under law.

IMMIGRATION & FOREIGNERS ACT, 2025 TAKES EFFECT

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 became law on September 1, replacing four earlier immigration statutes. It imposes stricter penalties for forged travel documents and enhances regulatory mechanisms around visa, deportation, and foreigner management.

WHY IT MATTERS:

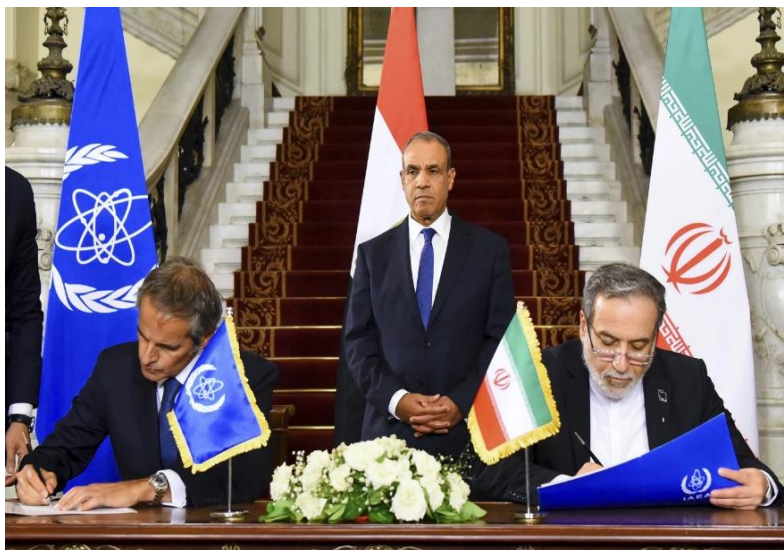
It marks a significant overhaul in India's immigration framework aimed at strengthening border security, streamlining procedures, and curbing fraudulent migration.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran and the IAEA nuclear deal

- ❖ Iran and the United Nations appear at odds over a nuclear cooperation deal announced on September 10, 2025.

- ❖ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the deal grants it access to all Iranian nuclear facilities.
- ❖ Iran, however, stated that the agreement does not guarantee inspector access except at the Bushehr nuclear plant.
- ❖ The deal follows a breakdown in cooperation after Israeli and U.S. strikes damaged Iran's nuclear sites in June 2025.
- ❖ Iran suspended cooperation with the IAEA in July, accusing the agency of double standards and halting inspections.
- ❖ Tehran warned it may end the agreement if international sanctions are reimposed or if hostile actions occur.



ECONOMY NEWS

SPREE-2025 and Amnesty Scheme

- ❖ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched SPREE-2025 and Amnesty Scheme-2025 to strengthen social security and ease compliance.
- ❖ The aim is to expand ESIC coverage, encourage voluntary registration, reduce litigation, and improve the delivery of benefits to workers.
- ❖ SPREE-2025 (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees) will be active till 31 December 2025.
- ❖ Under SPREE-2025, unregistered employers and employees can join ESIC via ESI Portal, Shram Suvidha Portal, or Company Affairs Portal without liability for past dues.
- ❖ The Amnesty Scheme-2025 will run from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026 for resolving disputes on damages, interest, and ESI Act coverage.

- ❖ It offers employers a one-time opportunity to settle pending cases and strengthen legal compliance.



Why Employers Should Register Under SPREE 2025?

- ▶ No scrutiny of past records
- ▶ No liability for past contributions
- ▶ Protection from actions for earlier non-registration
- ▶ Register your factory/establishment and all eligible employees
- ▶ No demand for previous dues

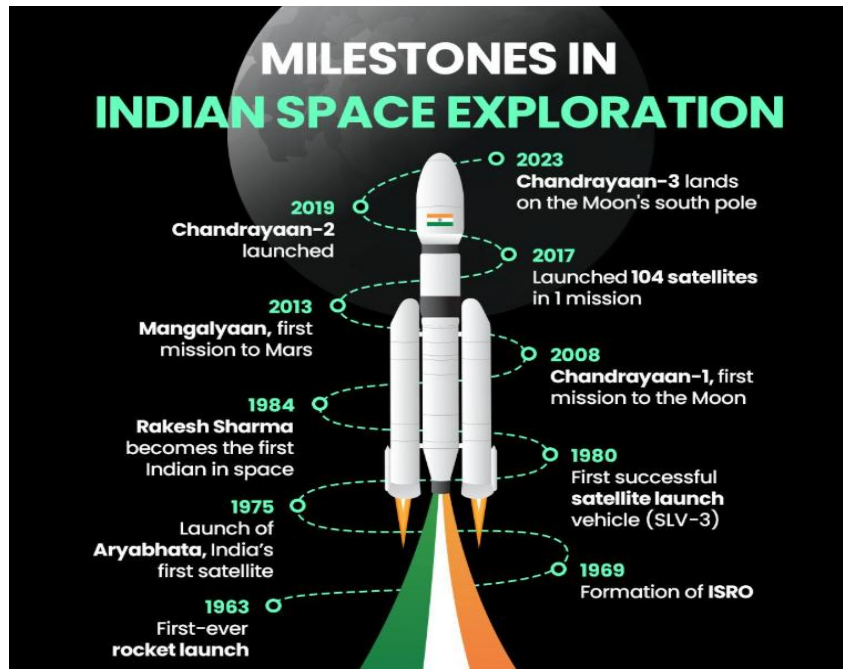
Give your workforce access to ESIC benefits including medical care, sickness, maternity support, and more

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's Space Record

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved nine major world records in space exploration as of 2025.
- ❖ India is on track to achieve eight to ten more world records in the coming years.
- ❖ In 2014, the Mars Orbiter Mission made India the first country to reach Mars on its maiden attempt.
- ❖ In 2017, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C37) launched 104 satellites in a single mission, setting a global record.
- ❖ In 2019, Chandrayaan-2 carried the world's best lunar orbiter camera to the Moon.
- ❖ In 2023, Chandrayaan-3 made India the first country to land near the Moon's South Pole.
- ❖ Between 2014 and 2017, India set three global records in cryogenic stage development.

- ❖ The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) achieved its first cryogenic flight in just 28 months, the fastest globally.
- ❖ India has launched more than 4,000 rockets and 133 satellites as of 2025.
- ❖ ISRO aims to land a human on the Moon by the year 2040 as part of its long-term roadmap.



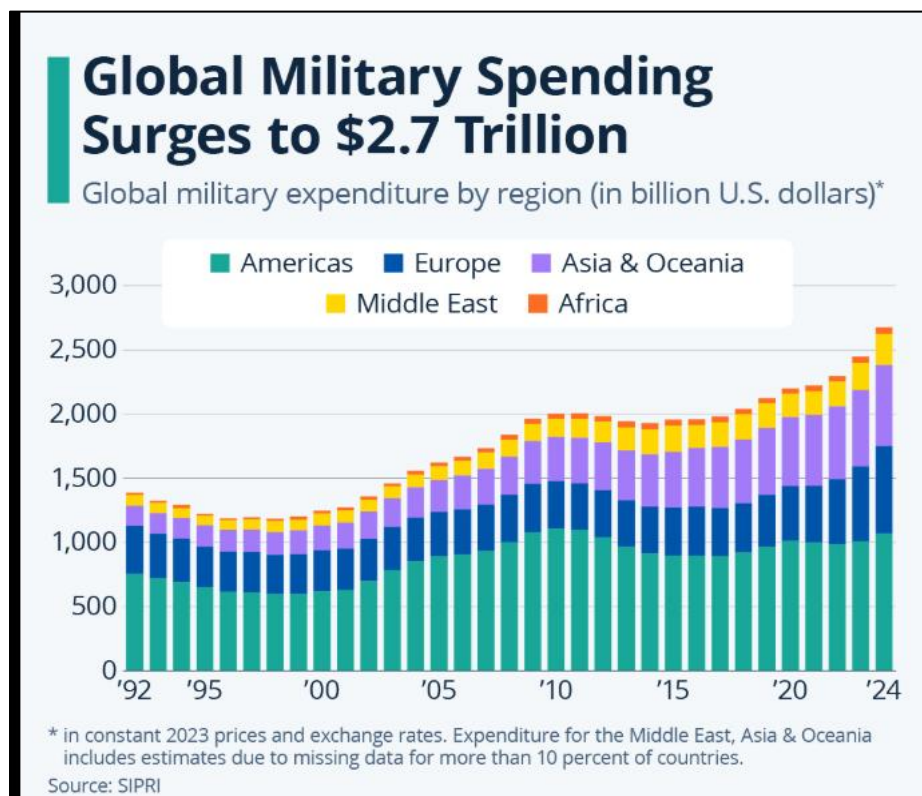
100th technology transfer



- ❖ ISRO signed an agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the transfer of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology.
- ❖ The pact was inked on September 10, 2025, in Bengaluru by ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL), and INSPACe.
- ❖ This is the 100th technology transfer agreement facilitated by INSPACe, marking a major step in industry participation in India's space sector.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UN Report on Military Spending



- ❖ The United Nations released the report titled The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future on September 9, 2025.
- ❖ Global military spending hit a record \$2.7 trillion in 2024, up 9% from 2023.
- ❖ Military spending is projected to reach \$6.6 trillion by 2035 if trends continue.
- ❖ Rising military budgets divert resources from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ Military spending increased from 2.2% to 2.5% of global GDP since 2022.
- ❖ Over 100 countries raised military expenditure in 2024 alone.

- ❖ A 1% increase in military spending in low- and middle-income countries cuts public health spending nearly equally.
- ❖ Reallocating 15% of military spending could fund climate adaptation in developing countries.

STATES' NEWS

Urban Conclave 2025

- ❖ Kerala hosted the country's first-ever Urban Conclave in Kochi for formulating and finalising an urban policy for the state.
- ❖ The event served as a platform to discuss the recommendations of the Kerala Urban Policy Commission.
- ❖ The international conclave was themed 'Aspiring cities, thriving communities.'
- ❖ The conclave discussed the challenges and possibilities of rapid urbanisation as Kerala's cities expanded into a 'mega-city'.



Kerala's Urban Policy Model

- ❖ Kerala established India's first state-level urban policy body called the Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC) in December 2023.
- ❖ The KUPC was tasked with preparing a 25-year urban roadmap based on Kerala's geography, climate, and settlement pattern.
- ❖ By 2050, Kerala's urban population is projected to exceed 80 percent, much higher than the national average.

- ❖ Economic zones were identified, such as Thrissur-Kochi as a fintech hub and Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam as a knowledge corridor.
- ❖ Kozhikode was recognised as a city of literature and Palakkad and Kasaragod were marked as smart-industrial growth centres.
- ❖ The report advised the revival of wetlands, reactivation of waterways, and protection of heritage areas under urban planning.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

International Conference on Space 2025



- ❖ The International Conference on Space 2025 was held in Bengaluru.

- ❖ It was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with support from ISRO, IN-SPACe, and New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- ❖ The theme of the conference was “Harnessing Space for Global Progress: Innovation, Policy, and Growth.”
- ❖ India’s space sector was valued at about USD 8.4 billion and was projected to grow to around USD 44 billion by 2033, with exports contributing USD 11 billion.
- ❖ Nearly 200 private space startups have emerged in India recently.
- ❖ Denmark was the guest country at the conference.

COLP48

- ❖ 48th Annual Conference on Oceans Law and Policy (COLP48) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference was held under the theme “Developing World Approaches to Ocean Governance: Perspectives from the Indian Ocean Rim.”
- ❖ This was the first time in nearly 50 years that India hosted COLP, marking a milestone in India’s role in global ocean governance.
- ❖ Five priority areas: sustainable fisheries, regional cooperation, blending traditional knowledge with modern science, climate resilience, and innovative finance for ocean research and governance.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2025 - September 09

- ❖ It spotlights the urgent need to safeguard schools, students, and educators in zones of conflict and crisis.



- ❖ This day spearheaded by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries in 2020.
- ❖ Between 2022 and 2023, approximately 6,000 attacks on students, educators, schools, and higher education institutions.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is 'Challenging narratives, reshaping action.'

