



**September - 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ An application has been filed with the GI Registry in Chennai for a Geographical Indication tag for Madurai Jigarthanda, a milk-based delicacy.
- ❖ MTC introduced 25 buses in Chennai to safely transport students and teachers to 25 government-aided schools during morning and evening hours.
- ❖ Chennai will host the fifth Coast Guard Global Summit in 2027, after India won the bid announced at the fourth summit in Rome on September 12, 2025.
- ❖ Purple Fest 2025 was held at Amity University, Noida, with over 1,800 participants celebrating inclusivity through sports, entrepreneurship, and cultural activities.
- ❖ The first regional office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was inaugurated in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ Namo Bharat has become India's fastest train by reaching a top speed of 160 kilometres per hour while operating on the Delhi–Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.
- ❖ Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed inaugurated the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's first international campus in Dubai.
- ❖ Union defence Minister flagged off 'Samudra Pradakshina,' the world's first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition aboard the indigenously built Indian Army Sailing Vessel Triveni.
- ❖ Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister, received the P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics posthumously for his significant contribution to India's economic reforms and development.
- ❖ India has achieved 250 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity.
  - The government aims to reach 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

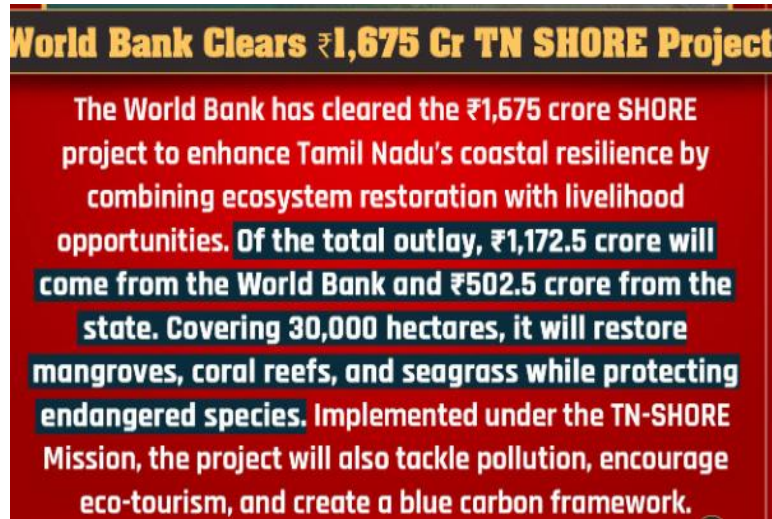
### **Cashew Board - Tamilnadu**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a Cashew Board with its headquarters in Cuddalore.
- ❖ The board has been set up to protect the welfare of producers and workers and to boost cashew production and exports.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in cashew production in India and is the second-largest exporter of cashew nuts.
- ❖ The crop is cultivated on 2.09 lakh acres in the state, and 43,460 metric tonnes of cashew nuts have been produced this year.
- ❖ The board has been formed with an allocation of Rs 10 crore as announced in the 2025–2026 agriculture budget.
- ❖ The board will be chaired by the agriculture minister and will include 12 members from key agriculture and export bodies.



## SHORE Project



- ❖ The World Bank has approved Rs 1,675 crore for the Tamil Nadu coastal resilience project.

- ❖ The project is named Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE).
- ❖ Of the total outlay, the World Bank will provide Rs 1,172.5 crore and the state government will contribute Rs 502.5 crore.
- ❖ The project will restore 30,000 hectares of seascapes including mangroves, coral reefs, sand dunes, and seagrass meadows.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **SC on Firecrackers ban**



- ❖ On April 3, 2025, the Supreme Court imposed a complete ban on the manufacture, sale, storage, and use of firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ❖ The ban was enforced because partial restrictions were ineffective, as firecrackers could be stockpiled and used during prohibited periods.
- ❖ The Supreme Court questioned the selective regional enforcement of the ban and indicated that air pollution requires a pan-India policy.
- ❖ The court highlighted that air pollution levels in cities outside Delhi, such as Amritsar, have at times exceeded those in Delhi during winter festivals.
- ❖ The court emphasized that uniform national action is necessary to address air pollution and also noted the economic impact on workers in the firecracker industry.

- ❖ The matter has been listed for further hearing in two weeks, and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has been directed to submit a report.

### **Quota for District Judge posts**



- ❖ A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will hear the matter starting September 23, 2025.
- ❖ The case concerns Article 233 of the Constitution, which governs the appointment of District Judges.
- ❖ Article 233(2) allows only non-service advocates with at least seven years' practice to be appointed as District Judges.
- ❖ The court will examine whether a serving judicial officer with prior Bar experience qualifies under the Bar quota.
- ❖ This is distinct from Article 234, which deals with recruitment to the subordinate judiciary.
- ❖ The question is whether judicial officers with prior seven years of Bar experience are eligible under the Bar quota.
- ❖ The case arose from a Kerala High Court decision canceling a District Judge's appointment due to his status as a serving Munsiff.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had stayed the High Court's decision in 2021.



- ❖ The matter was referred to the Constitution Bench by a Division Bench for authoritative interpretation.

### **Criminal defamation case - Kangana Ranaut**

- ❖ Kangana Ranaut withdrew her plea from the Supreme Court seeking to quash a criminal defamation complaint related to a retweet.
- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court had earlier dismissed her plea, stating she failed to show the tweet was made in good faith.
- ❖ In India, defamation is a criminal offence under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code, and a retweet with comments can attract liability.



### **Fast Track Immigration Programme Expansion**



- ❖ Union Home Ministry launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at five more airports on September 11, 2025.

- ❖ The newly added airports are Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, and Amritsar.
- ❖ The programme offers 30-second immigration clearance for pre-verified Indian citizens and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders.
- ❖ FTI-TTP was first launched at Delhi airport in July 2024 and later extended to seven other major airports, including Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru.
- ❖ The Ministry plans to extend the programme to 21 airports, including upcoming ones at Navi Mumbai and Jewar.
- ❖ FTI-TTP is currently free of charge and is aimed at enhancing both traveller convenience and national security.

## AIDIS and SAS

**About All-India Debt And Investment Survey (AIDIS)**

**Conducting agency:** The **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, under MoSPI, conducts AIDIS as part of its large-scale household survey system.

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**Historical background:**

- AIDIS traces its origin to the **All India Rural Credit Survey (1951-52)**.
- It was expanded in **1961-62** to cover both **debt** and **investment**.
- Since then, it has been conducted roughly once every decade, most recently in the 77th Round (2019) at the request of the Reserve Bank of India.

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**Purpose and coverage:**

- The survey provides **critical data on household indebtedness and asset ownership** in both rural and urban areas.
- These data feed into **national accounts** and help assess **inequality in asset distribution** and **understand credit markets**.

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**About Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) Of Agricultural Households**

**Conducting agency:** The NSO, under MoSPI, conducts the SAS to assess farming livelihoods.

- ❖ The National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will conduct the All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) and the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households from July 2026 to June 2027.
- ❖ AIDIS is a major household finance survey first conducted as the All-India Rural Credit Survey in 1951-52.
- ❖ It was expanded in 1961-62 to include both debt and investment.
- ❖ The survey provides data on household indebtedness and asset ownership across rural and urban areas and informs policies of the RBI, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and other institutions.
- ❖ The Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households was launched in 2003 and expanded in 2013 and 2019 to assess the economic conditions of farming communities nationwide.

- ❖ It covers household income, expenditure, indebtedness, land ownership, crop production, farming practices, and access to government schemes and crop insurance.

### **Border Wing Home Guards**

- ❖ The government plans to raise Border Wing Home Guards along the China border.
- ❖ Border Wing Home Guards act as auxiliaries to the Army and other border forces during emergencies.
- ❖ Currently, 2,279 guards are active only in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The move aims to support the Indo-Tibetan Border Police along the 3,488-kilometre China border.
- ❖ Since 2020, more than 50,000 Army and ITBP personnel have been deployed in eastern Ladakh.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Ancient Life on Mars**

- ❖ Scientists analysed a Mars rock sample called Sapphire Canyon from Jezero Crater.
- ❖ It contains vivianite and greigite, minerals linked to microbial activity on Earth.
- ❖ These minerals appear in a spotted pattern called "leopard spots" formed by redox reactions.



- ❖ Redox gradients may be driven by microbes or by nonbiological processes under certain conditions.
- ❖ No signs of heat or acidity suggest that a biological origin for these minerals is possible.
- ❖ The sample is a potential biosignature and may indicate ancient microbial life on Mars.



### **Plant-Based Wound Pad**



- ❖ Scientists at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Kerala, developed a wound-healing pad using the red ivy plant.
- ❖ The plant, known locally as murikooti pacha (*Strobilanthes alternata*).



- ❖ It belongs to the Acanthaceae family and grows in tropical regions, including India.
- ❖ Researchers isolated the bioactive compound acteoside from red ivy, linking it for the first time to the plant's traditional wound-healing use.
- ❖ The wound pad uses electro-spun nanofibers and contains acteoside (0.2%), neomycin sulfate, and FDA-approved biodegradable polymers.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Aspergillus species

- ❖ Researchers from the MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, identified two novel species of *Aspergillus* section Nigri (commonly known as black aspergillus), *Aspergillus dhakephalkarii* and *Aspergillus patriciawiltshireae*, from soil samples in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ They also reported the first geographic records of *Aspergillus aculeatinus* and *Aspergillus brunneoviolaceus* in India.
- ❖ The genus *Aspergillus* includes filamentous fungi widely found across ecological niches.




## STATES' NEWS

### Ramsar Wetland City Recognition for Urban Conservation

- ❖ Udaipur has been awarded the Wetland City accreditation by the Ramsar Convention in 2025.

- ❖ The recognition was conferred during the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards and Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony held by MoEFCC.
- ❖ Udaipur earned the recognition for integrating wetland conservation into urban planning and involving communities in lake protection.
- ❖ The Ramsar Wetland City accreditation honours cities with outstanding initiatives in wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable livelihoods.
- ❖ Known as the 'City of Lakes', Udaipur now joins a global list of cities recognised for sustainable wetland management.

<b>ADVANTAGE, THE CITY OF LAKES</b>	
<p>➤ <b>Udaipur is surrounded by five lakes</b> such as Fateh Sagar, Lake Pichola, Swaroop Sagar, Rang Sagar and Doodh Talai <b>which also conserve many fish species</b></p>	 <p><b>File pic of Pichola lake in Udaipur</b></p>
<p>➤ <b>Ramsar Conference of the Parties in 2015 (COP12) passed the establishment</b> of a wetland city accreditation system globally</p>	
<p>➤ <b>The 1st batch of wetland cities</b> from China, France and Sri Lanka, among others, <b>were notified in 2018</b></p>	
	<p>➤ <b>The 2nd batch of cities</b> from Japan, Morocco, Iraq, Spain and others were <b>declared in 2022</b></p>

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Suicide Prevention Day 2025 - September 10



- ❖ It is observed globally to raise awareness, foster compassion, and promote collective action in preventing suicides.

- ❖ With an estimated 208 000 lives lost every year, suicide is a major issue in our South-East Asia Region.
- ❖ India's suicide rates are higher than the global average.
- ❖ The triennial theme for World Suicide Prevention Day (2024–2026) is “Changing the Narrative on Suicide”.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### **Pleistocene Wolf Discovery - Russia**

- ❖ Scientists discovered a well-preserved 44,000-year-old wolf in Siberian permafrost, including skin, fur, and organs.
- ❖ The specimen, found in 2021, dates back to the late Pleistocene epoch.
- ❖ Permafrost preservation prevented decomposition by sealing the wolf's body in ice and minimizing exposure to oxygen and moisture.



### **The Philippine Island of Pugad**

- ❖ Pugad is a 7-hectare island in Manila Bay, part of Hagonoy in Bulacan province.
- ❖ The island sits at the mouth of the Angat–Pampanga River Delta in a low-lying area.
- ❖ Pugad is sinking due to land subsidence at about 11 centimetres per year from groundwater overuse.



- ❖ Sea levels in the Philippines are rising up to 13 millimetres per year, three times the global average.
- ❖ Mangroves were cleared for fishponds, reducing the island's natural coastal protection.
- ❖ Pugad faces frequent floods, typhoons, and storm surges, increasing the risk of displacement.

