

September - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025 title by drawing against Tan Zhongyi in the final round, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

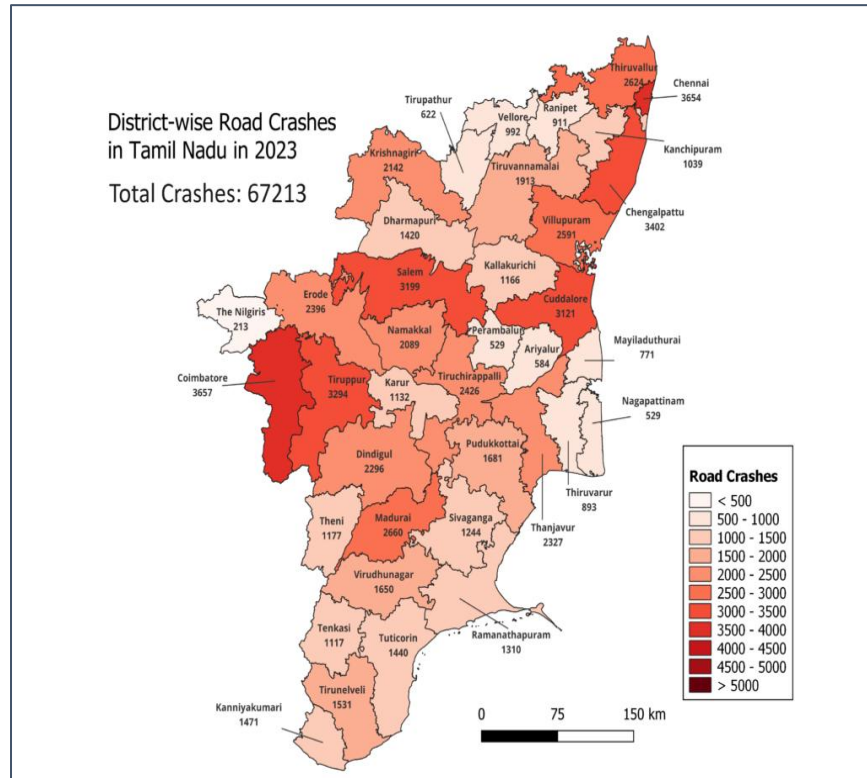
Tamil Nadu Rights Project



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Rights (TN RIGHTS) project has launched a Social Registry Enrollment (SRE) census in eight districts.
- ❖ The project is implemented by the Department of Welfare for Differently-Abled Persons.
- ❖ It is supported by World Bank funds.
- ❖ The project aims to promote inclusion, accessibility, and opportunities for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ The current phase of the census covers Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur, Perambalur, and Thiruvallur.
- ❖ The census is already underway in Chennai, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, and Tenkasi.
- ❖ The volunteers will visit each household to identify persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ The data collected will include details on education, employment, therapy services, and access to welfare schemes.
- ❖ An estimated 13 lakh persons with disabilities (PwDs) live in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The state lacks exact data on the population of persons with disabilities (PwDs).

- ❖ The social registry will function as a one-stop platform for extending services to persons with disabilities (PwDs).

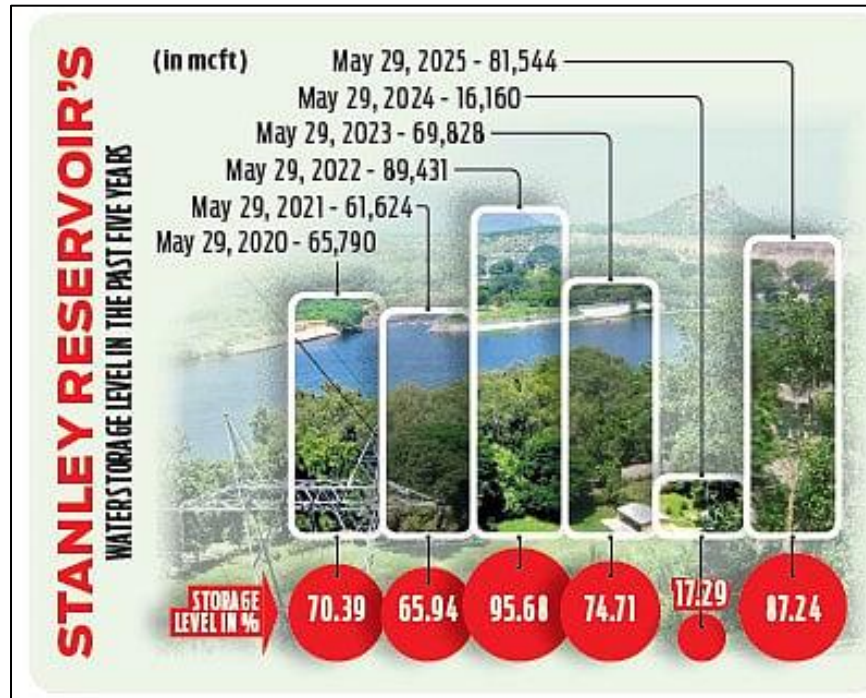
Road Accidents in Tamil Nadu 2023



- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) released the Road Accidents in India 2023 report.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 67,213 road accidents in 2023, accounting for 14% of the national total.
- ❖ Road accidents in Tamil Nadu increased by 4.6% from 64,105 in 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu reported 18,347 road accident deaths in 2023, a 2.5% rise from 17,884 in 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked second in total road accident deaths after Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Over speeding caused 13,363 crashes and 3,932 deaths in Tamil Nadu in 2023.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a high number of two-wheeler users, including children, but child-specific helmet norms are not yet enforced.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu released a Road Safety Policy in 2007, but has not maintained consistent implementation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu requires a State Road Safety Action Plan with 2030 targets and science-based speed management guidelines.

Capacity of Stanley Reservoir

- ❖ The Stanley Reservoir at Mettur attained its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 120 feet for the sixth time in 2025 on September 2.
- ❖ The dam first reached full capacity on June 29, 2025, due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas.
- ❖ The dam subsequently reached full level on July 5, July 20, July 25, and August 20, before filling again in September.



NATIONAL NEWS

Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025

- ❖ Supreme Court stays 'arbitrary' parts of Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 but upholds the law.
- ❖ The Court stayed the rule requiring proof of practicing Islam for five years due to a lack of verification methods.
- ❖ It struck down the provision allowing waqf status loss on mere doubt of government ownership before inquiry.
- ❖ Property title disputes must be decided by the judiciary, not by executive authorities changing records.
- ❖ Waqfs cannot be dispossessed or have records altered until tribunal decisions are final.

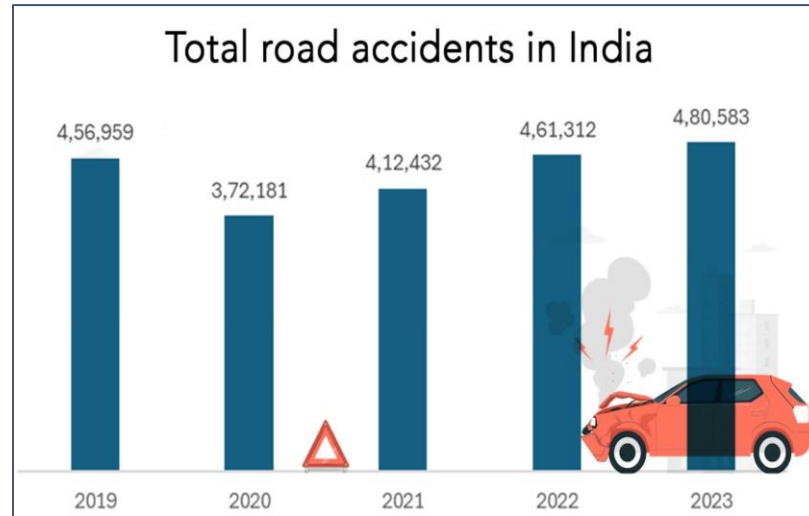
- ❖ The Court limited non-Muslim members in Central and State Waqf Boards and advised Muslim CEOs.
- ❖ Mandatory waqf registration upheld; unregistered waqfs can still apply for registration.



Road accidents in India

- ❖ India reported 4,80,583 road accidents in 2023, resulting in 1,72,890 deaths.
- ❖ Over-speeding caused 68.1% of road accident deaths in India in 2023.
- ❖ Two- and three-wheelers were involved in 44% of total road accident deaths.
- ❖ Not wearing helmets led to over 54,000 deaths in 2023.
- ❖ Not wearing seat belts caused 16,025 deaths across India in 2023.
- ❖ Potholes caused 5,840 accidents and 2,161 deaths, showing sharp increases from 2022.
- ❖ Wrong-side driving was responsible for 5.5% of total road accident deaths.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths at 23,652, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands had the lowest at 24.
- ❖ Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and two-wheeler riders, accounted for 68% of total fatalities.

- ❖ Most victims were males aged between 18 and 45 years, forming 66.4% of total deaths.



Androth ship



- ❖ The Indian Navy received the second anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC) named 'Androth' on September 13, 2025.
- ❖ The ship was built indigenously by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ❖ 'Androth' is approximately 77 meters long and is the largest Indian naval warship powered by a diesel engine-waterjet combination.



- ❖ The ship enhances the Navy's anti-submarine warfare and coastal surveillance capabilities.
- ❖ The name 'Androth' is derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

General Meeting of IEC

- ❖ India will host the 89th General Meeting (GM) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is the fourth time India is hosting the IEC GM, previously in 1960, 1997, and 2013.
- ❖ IEC membership includes about 170 countries representing 99% of the world's population, impacting nearly 20% of global trade by value.
- ❖ The GM will host over 150 Technical and Management Committee meetings and workshops on key themes like sustainability, AI innovation, e-mobility, and inclusive standards.
- ❖ Established in 1906, the IEC is the global leader in international standards for electrical, electronic, and related technologies, supported by 30,000 experts worldwide.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pink tax

- ❖ Pink tax refers to gender-based price discrimination where women pay more for products or services designed for them.
- ❖ It is not an actual tax imposed by the government but a pricing phenomenon benefiting companies financially.

- ❖ The term "pink tax" originated in California, United States, in 1994.
- ❖ Recent study found personal care products for women cost 13% more than similar products for men.
- ❖ Women's accessories and clothing in the U.S. were found to be 7% and 8% more expensive, respectively.
- ❖ Dry cleaning for women's shirts in the U.S. was 90% costlier than for men's shirts.
- ❖ The United Nations urged member states in 2017 to end gender-based price discrimination to promote economic equality.
- ❖ According to the International Finance Students Association research, 67% of Indian individuals are unaware of the pink tax.
- ❖ In 2018, India's Union Government exempted sanitary napkins and tampons from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), previously levied at 12%.
- ❖ Consumers can avoid the pink tax by choosing gender-neutral or men's variants and comparing unit prices.



India and Norway – Non Proliferation Dialogue

- ❖ India and Norway held their inaugural Maritime Security, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Dialogue in Oslo, Norway.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to sustain a secure maritime environment following international law.

- ❖ The dialogue aimed to promote economic growth, peace, and progress in maritime affairs.
- ❖ The next round of the dialogue will be held in New Delhi.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Weather Forecasting with AI

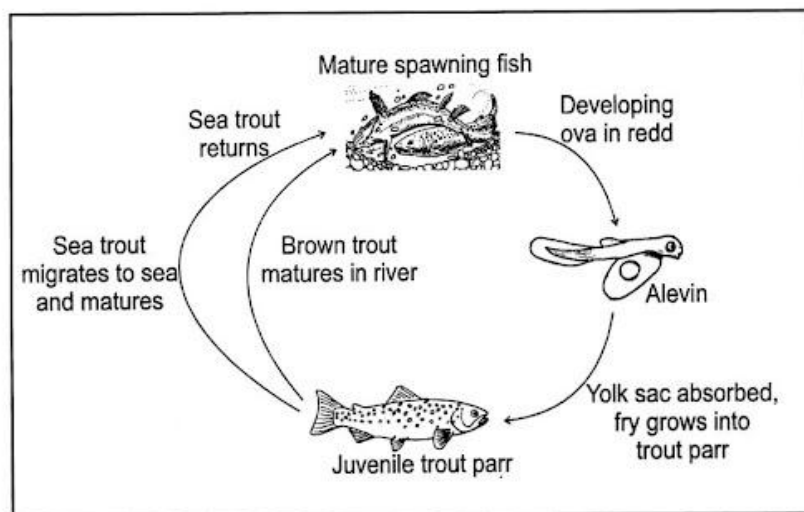
- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare used AI to send monsoon forecasts to 3.8 crore farmers in 13 states in 2025.
- ❖ This is India's first targeted dissemination of AI-based weather forecasts for agriculture.
- ❖ Forecasts were sent via SMS under the m-Kisan platform up to four weeks before rainfall.
- ❖ AI models used included Google's Neural GCM (Global Circulation Model) and ECMWF's (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) Artificial Intelligence Forecasting Systems (AIFS).
- ❖ These models outperformed traditional forecasts in predicting monsoon onset and pauses.
- ❖ The AI forecasts correctly predicted a 20-day mid-season pause in monsoon progression.
- ❖ Farmers received weekly forecast updates until continuous rains reached their areas.



INDIA used AI to send monsoon forecasts to 3.8 core farmers in 13 states in 2025

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Brown trout reintroduction



- ❖ Brown trout was first introduced to Kashmir by the British in 1900 for sport fishing.
- ❖ The initial successful consignment included 1,800 trout fries introduced into the Panzagam stream in Dachigam in Kashmir.
- ❖ Unregulated angling caused a steady decline in the brown trout population over the decades.
- ❖ The Fisheries Department is now reviving brown trout under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

- ❖ Introduction into streams is planned for October, during their non-cannibalistic breeding season.
- ❖ The revival is expected to boost game fishing and eco-tourism, though riverbed remains a threat to habitat.

Erra Matti Dibbalu



- ❖ Erra Matti Dibbalu, the red sand dunes along the Visakhapatnam–Bheemunipatnam beach road, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Sites.
- ❖ The site stands at heights of 10 to 30 feet and is already among India's 34 national geo-heritage sites.
- ❖ The dunes were formed around 18,500 years ago during the last glacial maximum when the sea had receded about 100 metres.
- ❖ Red coloration of the sand is due to the presence of ferrous minerals that oxidize over time.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sarada Hoffman demise

- ❖ Renowned Bharatanatyam exponent and Kalakshetra teacher Alladi Sarada (Sarada Hoffman) passed away in California.
- ❖ She was born on 15 June 1929, in the Theosophical Society campus at Adyar, Chennai.
- ❖ She was widely known as Chinna Sarada and the Sarada teacher in the Kalakshetra community.

- ❖ Sarada teacher played a key role in shaping and standardising the Kalakshetra methodology for Bharatanatyam.
- ❖ She received the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996 and the first Rukmini Devi Medal for Excellence in the Arts.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Hindi Diwas 2025 - September 14

September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas, to honour the rich heritage of the language

CELEBRATING HINDI

42.2 cr people, or 41% of India's population, have Hindi & its derivatives as their mother tongue	25.79 cr speak pure Hindi while 16.41 cr speak its derivatives
---	--

49 derivative languages of Hindi are in existence

The modern Devanagari script came into existence in the **11th century**

Derives its name from the Persian word **Hind**



- ❖ It aims to showing the importance and usefulness of Hindi.
- ❖ On 14 September 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as the official language of India along with the Devanagari script.
- ❖ This day was started being formally celebrated from 1953.
- ❖ On January 10th, 1975, the first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

7 Indian Natural Sites on UNESCO List

Natural Site	Location (State/Region)
Deccan Traps at Panchgani & Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra
St. Mary's Island Cluster	Karnataka
Meghalayan Age Caves (East Khasi Hills)	Meghalaya
Naga Hill Ophiolite (Kiphire)	Nagaland
Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Dunes)	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Tirumala Hills	Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
Varkala Cliffs	Kerala

- ❖ In 2025, UNESCO added seven new Indian sites to its Tentative World Heritage List.
- ❖ These additions bring the total number of Indian sites on the Tentative List to 69.
- ❖ Of the 69 sites, 49 fall under the Cultural category, 17 under the Natural category, and three under the Mixed category.
- ❖ Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra) were added for being one of the largest basaltic volcanic provinces in the world.
- ❖ St Mary's Island Cluster (Karnataka) was listed for its columnar basaltic lava formations from the Late Cretaceous period.
- ❖ Meghalayan Age Caves in East Khasi Hills (Meghalaya) were added for their extensive limestone cave systems.
- ❖ Naga Hill Ophiolite in Kiphire (Nagaland) represents exposed oceanic plate segments pushed onto continental plates.
- ❖ Erra Matti Dibbalu in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) is a National Geo-heritage Monument of red sand dunes showing sea level changes.
- ❖ Tirumala Hills in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) were listed for their combined ecological and spiritual significance.
- ❖ Varkala in Kerala was added for its unique coastal cliffs and important geological formations.

