

September - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In September 2025, the Indian Army's 1st Armoured Division conducted Exercise Jal Shakti in Patiala, Punjab, to validate water obstacle crossing capabilities under operational conditions.
- ❖ World Water Monitoring Day was observed on September 18<sup>th</sup> to highlight the importance of continuous water quality monitoring in protecting our lakes, rivers and oceans.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### De-listed Political Parties in Tamil Nadu



**தமிழ்நாட்டில் உள்ள 42 கட்சிகளின் பதிவு ரத்து**

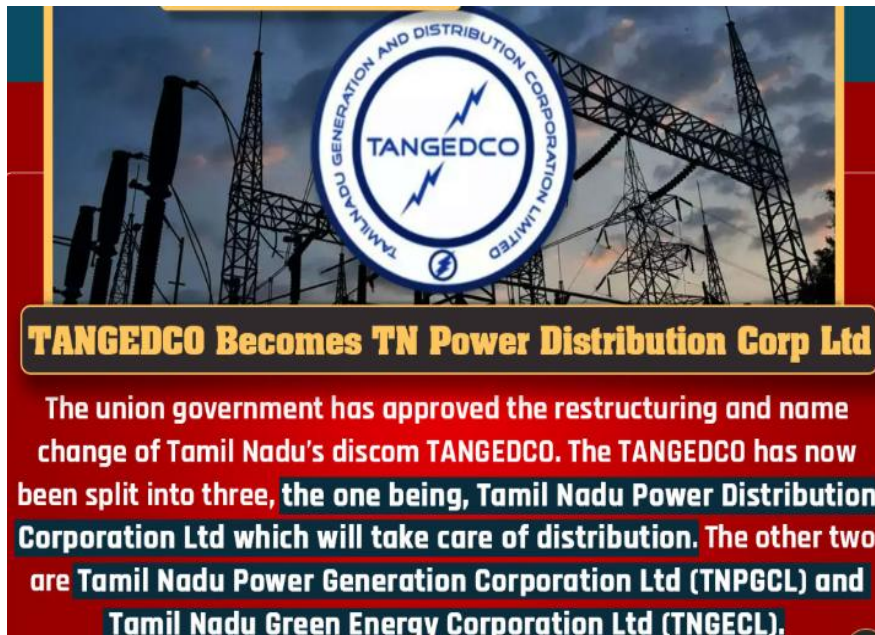
**தமிழ்நாட்டில் உள்ள 42 கட்சிகளின் பதிவுகளை ரத்து செய்து தலைமை தேர்தல் ஆணையம் உத்தரவு**

2019 முதல் தொடர்ச்சியாக 6 ஆண்டுகளாக தேர்தலில் பங்கேற்காமல் இருந்தத கட்சிகளின் பதிவுகள் ரத்து; தேர்தல் செலவின கணக்குகளை தாக்கல் செய்யாத கட்சிகளின் பதிவுகளையும் ரத்து செய்து நடவடிக்கை

- ❖ The Election Commission of India de-listed 42 political parties from Tamil Nadu on September 20, 2025.
- ❖ The action was taken under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ Parties that do not contest elections for six consecutive years can be removed from the list of registered parties.
- ❖ The affected parties are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs).

- ❖ This is part of the Election Commission's second phase of electoral system clean-up.
- ❖ Manithaneya Jananayaga Katchi, led by Thamimun Ansari, was also removed from the list.
- ❖ Thamimun Ansari had won from Nagapattinam on an All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) ticket.
- ❖ Perunthalaivar Makkal Katchi, led by N. R. Dhanapalan, was de-listed.
- ❖ N. R. Dhanapalan contested unsuccessfully from Perambur on an AIADMK ticket in 2016 and 2021.
- ❖ A party must declare in its constitution that it will contest elections within five years of registration.

### **Regulatory Assets of Power Distribution Companies**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan account for a major share of India's ₹3 lakh crore regulatory assets (RA) of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMS).
- ❖ Regulatory assets (RA) arise when costs incurred by DISCOMS are not recovered through timely tariff revisions.
- ❖ As of April 1, 2024, Tamil Nadu's DISCOMS had regulatory assets worth ₹83,000 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has restructured the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) as follows for asset and liability distribution.

- TN Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL) – 27%,
- TN Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) – 2%, and
- TN Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDL) – 71%,
- ❖ Regulatory assets as on March 31, 2022, were proposed as ₹22,110.16 crore for TNPGL, ₹1,851.71 crore for TNGECL, and ₹59,038.14 crore for TNPDL.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered the liquidation of legacy regulatory assets in four years and capped new creation at 3% of Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR), with the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) overseeing compliance.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses reduced from 18.73% in 2017–18 to 10.73% in 2024–25.
- ❖ The Average Cost of Supply – Average Revenue Realised (ACS–ARR) gap narrowed to ₹0.04 per unit.

### **New Port Projects in Tamil Nadu**



- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for three infrastructure projects at Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port from Bhavnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ At Chennai Port, the existing 850-metre revetment behind the coastal berth will be repaired and strengthened at a cost of ₹33 crore.



- ❖ The project, based on a study by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), aims to ensure long-term port stability and reduce operational disruptions.
- ❖ At Kamarajar Port, the firefighting facilities will be upgraded at eight locations, including car and container yards, at a cost of ₹25 crore.
- ❖ Another project at Kamarajar Port involves constructing a concrete road from the National Coastline Transit Processing System (NCTPS) road to the coal stack yard and rebuilding two bridges.
- ❖ The road and bridge project, estimated at ₹58 crore, will improve heavy vehicle safety and coal handling efficiency, with completion expected by 2027.

### Commercial Shipyards in Tuticorin



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has attracted ₹30,000 crore investment to establish two greenfield commercial shipyards in the Tuticorin district.
- ❖ The projects are expected to create 55,000 jobs, including both direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- ❖ The investment follows the signing of two MoUs between the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) and the V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority.

- ❖ Cochin Shipyard Limited will invest ₹15,000 crore to set up a shipyard generating over 10,000 jobs (4,000 direct and 6,000 indirect) in the first phase.
- ❖ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited will invest ₹15,000 crore for another shipyard.
- ❖ The shipyards will focus on shipbuilding and repair, aligning with India's national strategy to boost the maritime sector.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Next Generation GST Reforms

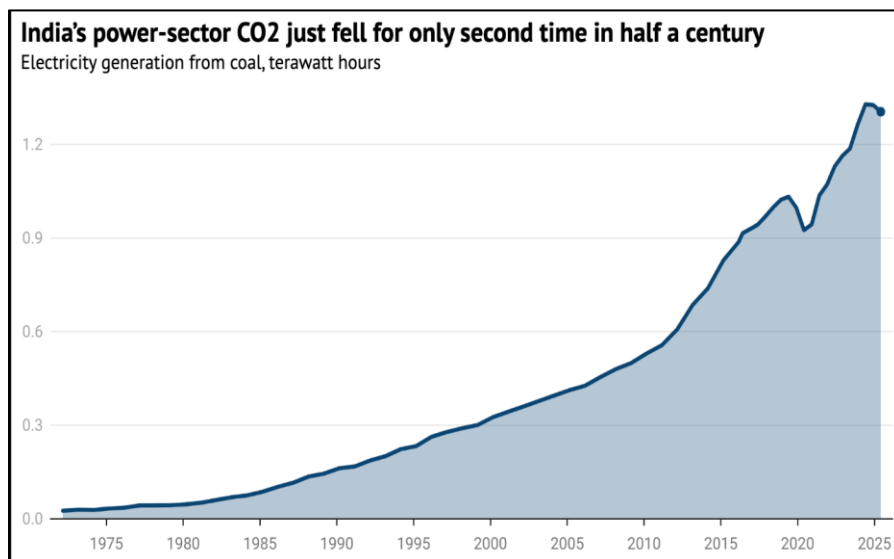


- ❖ Prime Minister announced that the next generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will commence on the first day of Navratri.
- ❖ The GST Bachat Utsav will start along with the reforms, enabling citizens to buy goods at reduced prices across multiple sectors.
- ❖ The revised GST system simplifies the tax structure by retaining only two main tax slabs — 5 percent and 18 percent — replacing multiple older levies such as Octroi, Entry Tax, Excise, VAT, Sales Tax, and Service Tax.

- ❖ Essential goods and services, including food items, medicines, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, health insurance, and life insurance, will now be either tax-free or taxed at 5 percent.
- ❖ The reforms aim to remove inefficiencies in the earlier tax system, reduce paperwork, and eliminate interstate barriers to trade.

### India's Electricity sector Emissions

- ❖ India's electricity sector emissions fell by 1% in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.
- ❖ This is the first time any sector in India has shown a half-year emissions drop outside the Covid-19 period.
- ❖ Lower power demand was due to milder summer temperatures and strong rainfall contributed to the decline.
- ❖ Fossil fuel-based electricity fell by 29 terawatt-hours, while solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear generation rose.
- ❖ India added 25.1 gigawatts of clean energy capacity, a 70% increase over the same period last year.
- ❖ Experts expect the emissions from India's power sector to peak by 2030 due to continued clean energy expansion.



### 'Blue Ports' Project

- ❖ India and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have launched a project to strengthen Blue Port infrastructure under a new technical cooperation agreement.

- ❖ The Blue Ports aim to boost exports, support fishers' livelihoods, and reduce the environmental footprint of port operations.
- ❖ The Department of Fisheries held the first in a series of capacity-building webinars focused on sustainable and smart fishing ports.
- ❖ The initiative includes three pilot harbours at Vanakbara (Diu), Jakhau (Gujarat), and Karaikal (Puducherry).
- ❖ Smart technologies such as AI (artificial intelligence), 5G, IoT (Internet of Things), and automation will be used to improve port efficiency and sustainability.



## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Saudi-Pakistan Defense Pact**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed a mutual defence agreement declaring that any aggression against one will be treated as an aggression against both.
- ❖ The pact formalises long-standing military ties, with Pakistan historically training Saudi forces and Saudi Arabia providing financial support, including for Pakistan's nuclear program.



- ❖ Saudi Arabia's move indicates a diversification of its alliances, especially as normalization with Israel stalls post the October 2023 Gaza conflict.
- ❖ Pakistan seeks to strengthen its role as a regional security provider while securing financial backing from the Gulf.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Humanoid Vyommitra

- ❖ ISRO will launch Vyommitra, an AI-powered half-humanoid robot, on its first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in December 2025.
- ❖ Vyommitra (from vyoma, space, and mitra, friend) is designed to simulate human functions and assess onboard systems before astronauts are sent.
- ❖ Built with aluminium alloy, it monitors temperature, pressure, CO<sub>2</sub> levels, and communicates with life support systems in Hindi and English.
- ❖ It can issue alerts, perform six-panel operations, replicate human gestures, and assess space conditions like microgravity.



- ❖ Unlike NASA's Robonaut and China's Xiao Hang, Vyommitra is a pre-flight safety validator rather than an in-flight assistant.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Scarlet Dragonfly

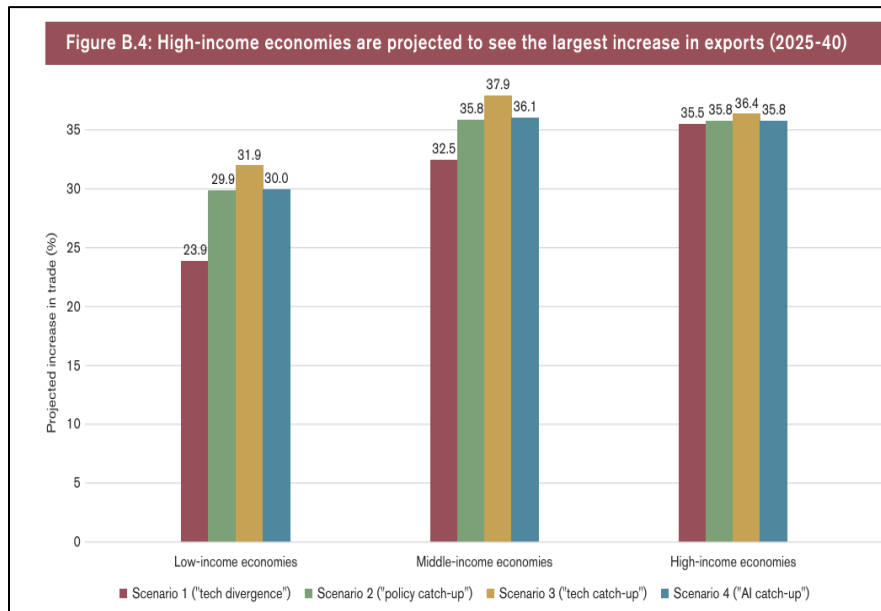


- ❖ A rare scarlet dragonfly has been spotted in the high-altitude valleys of Munnar, Kerala.

- ❖ The species, *Crocothemis erythraea*, is also known as the scarlet darter or broad scarlet.
- ❖ It is typically found in warmer lowland areas and is rarely seen in cool mountain regions.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Trade report 2025



- ❖ The World Trade Organization has released the World Trade Report 2025 was launched at the WTO Public Forum on September 17, 2025.
- ❖ The report projects that artificial intelligence could increase global trade by 34% to 37% by 2040.
- ❖ Global gross domestic product could rise by 12% to 13% under various policy and technology scenarios.
- ❖ Global trade in AI-enabling goods was valued at 2.3 trillion United States dollars in 2023.
- ❖ If low- and middle-income countries reduce their digital gap with high-income countries by 50%, incomes may rise by 15% and 14%, respectively.
- ❖ The number of quantitative restrictions on AI-related goods rose from 130 in 2012 to nearly 500 in 2024.
- ❖ High and upper-middle-income economies accounted for the majority of these restrictions.



- ❖ Some low-income economies still face bound tariffs of up to 45% on AI-related goods.
- ❖ 80 AI-related trade concerns have been raised at the World Trade Organization.
- ❖ The report encourages broader participation in the Information Technology Agreement and updated commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of S and T and Innovation for South 2025 - September 16

- ❖ During the Summit on Science, Technology, and Innovation, held in Havana in 2023, the leaders of the G77 and China agreed to designate this day.
- ❖ On 9 January 2024, the United Nations General Assembly declared this day.
- ❖ This day observed as a crucial step towards addressing these challenges and reaffirming the global commitment to inclusive development.



### World Patient Safety Day 2025 - September 17



- ❖ It aims to impart knowledge and guidance on reducing patient harm.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Safe care for every newborn and every child", with the slogan "Patient safety from the start!".
- ❖ The World Health Assembly Resolution 72.6 - "Global action on patient safety," and the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030.

### **World Bamboo Day 2025 - September 18**

- ❖ It was established during the 8th World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok (2009) by the World Bamboo Organisation.
- ❖ Scientifically, bamboo is not a tree but grass, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 considered it a tree.
- ❖ By the 2017 amendment bamboo has been removed from the category of tree.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design.'



## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **60 Years of 1965 War Victory**

- ❖ India is commemorating the diamond jubilee of India's victory in the 1965 war against Pakistan.
- ❖ On August 5, 1965, Pakistani troops camouflaged as Kashmiri locals crossed the LOC.
- ❖ This infiltration strategy was codenamed Operation Gibraltar.
- ❖ The Indian Army retaliated and captured the Haji Pir Pass in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).



- ❖ On 1 September, Pakistan put into action its Operation Grand Slam aimed at capturing the town of Akhnoor in Jammu.
- ❖ This war was fought on many fronts including in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The war ended on 23 September 1965 after the UNSC called for an unconditional ceasefire from both.
- ❖ Ceasefire negotiations were hosted by the USSR in Tashkent (now in Uzbekistan) in January 1966 which led to the Tashkent Agreement.
- ❖ The signatories to this agreement were Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Pakistani President Ayub Khan.

India retaliated to Pakistan's Operation Grand Slam on Aug 5, leading to the Indo-Pak War of 1965

## A WAR WITH NO WINNER

Indian XI Corps started advancing towards Lahore along the Amritsar-Lahore, Khairabad-Lahore and Khem Karan-Kasur roads

**3,000** Indian soldiers and **3,800** Pakistani soldiers lost their lives

**128** Indian tanks and **471** Pakistani tanks were destroyed

**1,500 sq mi of Pakistani territory** was won by India, while 250 sq mi of Indian territory was won by Pakistan

**26,000 - 33,000** Pakistani soldiers crossed the LOC dressed as Kashmiri locals

*"If Pakistan has any ideas of annexing our territories ... force will be met with force"*  
- Lal Bahadur Shastri

