

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MAY 2025 - PART 2



An ISO 9001: 2015 Institution | Providing Excellence Since 2011

Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Isha Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.

Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

Branches

SALEM

No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,
Near ARRS Multiplex
(Near Salem New Bus Stand)
Opp. Venkateshwara Complex
Salem – 636 004.
Ph: 0427-2330307 | 95001 22022

TIRUNELVELI

No. 58, IVY Towers, 3rd Floor,
Palayamkottai,
Near Palai Bus Stand,
(Next to Muthamil Hospital)
Tirunelveli – 627 002.
Ph: 91500 10079

THIRUCHENGODE

Vivekananda Educational Institutions
Elayampalayam (Po)
Thiruchengode (Tk)
Namakkal (Dt) – 637205.
Ph: 7845779908

KOVAI

No. 347, D.S. Complex
(3rd floor), Nehru Street
Near Gandhipuram Central
Bus Stand, Ramnagar
Kovai – 641 009.
Ph: 75021 65390

THANJAVUR

Muthu Complex,
(Pantaloon Showroom Basement)
No. 243, Cauvery Nagar
Opp. New Housing Unit
Thanjavur – 613 005.
Ph: 78711 69099 | 78715 71819

TRICHY

No.48, Karur Bypass Road,
Chatram Bus Stand (Opp.to
St. Joseph College)
Trichy – 620 002.
Ph: 9500278085

MADURAI

No. 199, Dharshini Tower
1st Floor, Vaigai Colony
Anna Nagar
Madurai – 625 020.
**Ph: 91500 21999
91500 21998**

KOVELPATTI

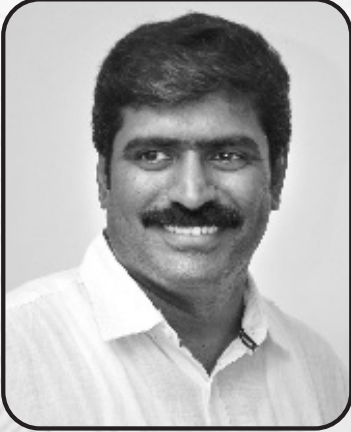
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road
Behind Kaliannan Temple
Kovelpatti – 628 501.
**Ph: 90037 90335
81222 80685**

TIRUVANNAMALAI

MSTS Building
Vettavalam Main Road
Near Vijaya Mall
Tiruvannamalai – 606601.
Ph: 9884043666

www.vetriias.com

Preface



M. SHUNMUGAM

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

© All rights reserved with the publisher. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the written permission of the publisher, will be responsible for the loss and may be punished for compensation under copyright act.

My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST
for their journey in Civil Services !

Published by:

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

F Block New No. 1, 9th Street,
1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,
Anna Nagar (E), Chennai – 102.

Phone : 044-2626 5326

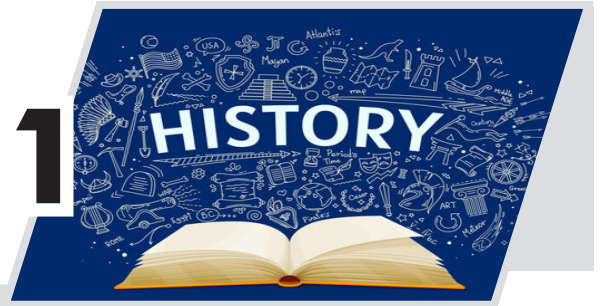
98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

E-mail : enquiry@vetriias.com

Web : www.vetriias.com

CONTENTS

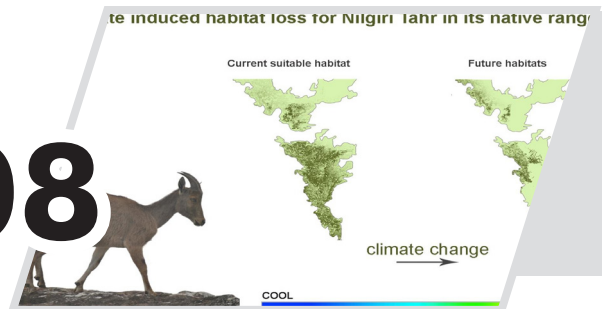
HISTORY 01



06 POLITICAL SCIENCE



GEOGRAPHY 08



10 ECONOMICS



SCIENCE 13



**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT**

14



19

**INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

20



1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 17	World Hypertension Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Hypertension Day is celebrated every year on 17 May.This year, the theme of World Hypertension Day is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!" World Hypertension Day was launched by the World Hypertension League in 2005.
May 18	International Museum Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">International Museum Day is celebrated on May 18 every year. It highlights the important role of museums worldwide.International Museum Day 2025 focuses on the theme "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities," emphasizing how museums adapt to support education, innovation, and community development in today's fast-changing world.
May 20	World Metrology Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Metrology Day, observed globally on May 20, highlights the importance of measurement science in daily life and technological advancement.The 2025 theme, "Measurements for all times, for all people," emphasizes the role of measurements in history, present, and future innovations.This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Metre Convention.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
May 21	National Anti-Terrorism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed annually on May 21st in remembrance of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination on May 21st, 1991. Anti-Terrorism Day in India was established by the VP Singh government in memory of Rajiv Gandhi.

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)

- India's military has recently showcased its Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS).
- The IACCS is an automated command and control system developed by Bharat Electronics Limited.
- It integrates data from multiple sources. These include ground-based radars, airborne sensors, and communication nodes.

Revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

- Union Home Minister inaugurated the revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC), a common counter-terrorism grid under the Intelligence Bureau (IB) that was conceptualised in 2001 post the Kargil war.
- The new MAC network securely connects all police districts in the country and has been built at a cost of Rs.500 crore.

- As many as 28 organisations, including the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), armed forces and State police, are part of the platform, and various security agencies share real-time intelligence inputs in the MAC.

Nomadic Elephant

- The 17th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise, dubbed Nomadic Elephant, is set to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This military collaboration will be held from 31st May to 13th June 2025. It is an annual event alternating between India and Mongolia.
- The previous exercise took place in Umroi, Meghalaya, in July 2024.
- This exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the two nations' armed forces.

1.3 EMINENT PERSONS

Dr M. R. Srinivasan, pioneering Nuclear Scientist Passes Away

- Renowned for his instrumental role in India's nuclear energy programme, he served as the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy

Commission and was the founding Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

- In 1959, he was appointed Principal Project Engineer for India's first atomic power station.

1.4 BOOKS & AUTHORS

New Book Launched - "Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician"

- National Archives of India launched a book titled 'Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician' in New Delhi.
- This book, authored by Arun Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma, explores the remarkable life and legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of India's most celebrated mathematicians.
- The book delves into the extraordinary life of Srinivasa Ramanujan, exploring his genius and his significant contributions to mathematics despite facing numerous challenges, including limited formal education.

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Debuts and Cricket Retained for Asian Games 2026

- The 2026 Asian Games, set to be hosted in Japan's Aichi and Nagoya prefectures from September 19 to October 4.
- For the first time, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) will be included, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of combat sports on the international stage.
- Additionally, cricket, a beloved sport in Asia, will make its fourth appearance at the Games.
- Cricket made its first appearance at the Asian Games in 2010 in Guangzhou and has since been a part of the Games, except for the 2018 edition.

1.6 AWARDS AND HONORS

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated and presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 to badminton champions Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in New Delhi.
- The ace badminton pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who reached the No. 1 rank in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings in 2023 and clinched the Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou, were shortlisted for the Khel Ratna award in 2023.
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023: The Khel Ratna Award, also known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (previously Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award), stands as India's prestigious sports recognition, honoring athletes who have brought immense glory to the nation through their exceptional performances in diverse sporting disciplines.

Heart Lamp won the International Booker Prize for 2025

- Kannada writer, lawyer, and activist Banu Mushtaq, 77, began writing about her people, their joys, sorrows and anxieties, over five decades ago.
- On Tuesday, Heart Lamp, a collection of 12 short stories selected from her work written between 1990 and 2023 and translated by Deepa Bhasthi, won the International Booker Prize for 2025 from a shortlist featuring books in French, Italian, Danish, and Japanese.
- It's a first win for Kannada, and the first time in the history of the prize that a collection of short stories has been honoured.
- The award for an Indian writer comes three years after Geetanjali Shree won the prestigious literary prize for Tomb of Sand, translated from Hindi by Daisy Rockwell.

Dadasaheb Phalke Marathi Sanskrutik Kary Excellence Award

- Three eminent personalities, who have made stellar contributions to the field of arts, were honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Marathi Sanskrutik Kary Excellence Award.
- Padma Subrahmanyam, veteran bharatanatyam exponent, choreographer and research scholar (for excellence in performing arts); K.N. Ramaswamy, director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra (for promoting performing arts); and M. Murali, founder of NKM Trust (for promoting performing arts) received the award

Military Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu presented 'Kirti Chakra' and 'Shaurya Chakra' awards to 39 people for their heroic deeds.
- Six people received the 'Kirti Chakra' award: Rashtriya Rifles soldier Ravikumar, Colonel Manpreet Singh, Naik Dilwar Khan, Major Manjeet, Major Mallaram Gopal Naidu, and Jammu-Kashmir Police Deputy Superintendent Himayun Musamil Bhat.
- Similarly, 33 people from the armed forces and central armed police forces received Shaurya Chakra awards.
- Havildar Rohit Kumar Gikon and Vijayan Kutti from the Border Roads Organization also received the 'Shaurya Chakra' award. Among these, Rohit Kumar lost his life in an avalanche in Ladakh while on duty.

Cannes Film Festival

- Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi's revenge thriller It Was Just an Accident won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival handing the festival's top prize to a director who had been banned from leaving Iran for more than 15 years.
- The Grand Prix, or second prize, was awarded to Joachim Trier's Norwegian family drama Sentimental Value, his lauded follow-up to The Worst Person in the World.
- Kleber Mendonça Filho's Brazilian political thriller The Secret Agent won two big awards: best director for Mr. Fihlo and best actor for Wagner Moura. Best actress went to Nadia Melliti for The Little Sister.

1.7 APPOINTMENTS

Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission

- Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar took charge as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Thursday. He was administered the oath of secrecy by Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.).
- Mr. Kumar belongs to the 1985 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Kerala Cadre.
- 52nd Chief Justice of India.
- Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India. He is

notable for being the first Buddhist and dalit to hold this prestigious position

52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has been appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- Article 124(2): Empowers the President to appoint the CJI.
- Article 126: Provides for appointment of an Acting Chief Justice when required.
- Tenure: No fixed term but holds office until the age of 65 years (Article 124(2)).



2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

- Maternity Leave is Part of Reproductive Rights (K. Umadevi v. Government of Tamil Nadu): SC
- The Supreme Court (SC) ruled that maternity leave is an essential component of a woman's reproductive rights, thereby reinforcing the constitutional and human rights of working women.
- The Court set aside a Madras HC order that had denied maternity leave to a woman on the birth of her 3rd child, based on the State's policy limiting benefits to women with only 2 children.
- Reproductive Rights: Maternity leave is an integral part of maternity benefits and forms a core aspect of a woman's reproductive rights.
- Constitutional Protection: A woman's right to reproductive choices is protected under Article 21, as a part of personal liberty (Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration case).

Presidential Reference under Article 143

- The President has invoked Article 143 of the Indian Constitution to refer a set of 14 constitutional questions to the Supreme Court (SC) for its advisory opinion.
- This move comes after a recent SC judgement which invoked Article 142 in the State of Tamil Nadu v The Governor of Tamil Nadu Case, 2023 imposing timelines on Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by state legislatures.
- The reference raises 14 key questions, primarily concerning Articles 200 and 201, and the justiciability of executive actions before a Bill becomes law.
- Article 143 (Advisory jurisdiction) empowers the President of India to seek the SC's advisory opinion on any question of law or fact that is of public importance and is likely to arise or has already arisen.
- This provision establishes the SC's advisory jurisdiction, which is exclusive to the President.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Enrolment Drop in Government Schools and PM-POSHAN

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) convened a discussion with States and UTs to review the performance, planning, and budget of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme, revealing a decline in government school enrolment in 23 States.
- Launched for an initial five-year period (2021–22 to 2025–26), it replaced the earlier midday meal scheme (MDM).
- Launched in 1995, the MDM Scheme is the world's largest school meal programme, aimed at universalizing primary education.

What is the PM-POSHAN Scheme?

- About: PM-POSHAN is a centrally sponsored scheme for providing one hot cooked meal to students up to Class 8 Government and Government-aided schools.
- Cost Sharing: Its cost is shared by the Centre and States on a 60:40 basis, with the Centre supplying foodgrains.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) About SASCI

- The Centre's 50-year interest-free capex loans under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) are driving major land reforms across India by pushing states to modernise property systems, boosting efficiency, and industrial growth.
- The 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' was launched in 2020-21 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Later renamed as SASCI, it aims to stimulate economic recovery by providing interest-free assistance to states specifically for capital investment.



3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve

- The Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve was officially notified on May 7, 2025. This reserve is located in the **Spiti Valley** of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is now the largest conservation area in India.
- It enhances conservation efforts for species like the **snow leopard**.

India's First Inter-State Cheetah Corridor

- India's First Inter-State Cheetah Corridor Set to Span Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The project will connect Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh with the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
- Project Cheetah
 - It is India's initiative to reintroduce the extinct Asiatic cheetah species in Indian wildlife habitats.
 - Originally launched in 2022, the first group of cheetahs was translocated from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park.
 - The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) are the key implementing agencies.

India's lion population risen by 32%

- India's lion population, exclusively concentrated in Gujarat, has risen by 32%

between 2020 and 2025, with 891 lions reported,

- according to a report from the Gujarat Forest Department The number of adult females – a proxy for future growth – rose by 27% to 330 individuals.
- the highest number of lions – 394 – have been observed in the Gir National Park and Paniya Wildlife Sanctuary
- In March, Prime Minister approved Project Lion, a Rs.2,900-crore project to improve lion habitat and develop new habitat within Gujarat.
- From 2015 to 2020, the territorial range of the lions extended to 30,000 sq. km, reflecting a 36.4% growth. By 2025, the area reached 35,000 sq. km, registering a 16.67% increase.

Survey records 397 wetland bird species in Tamil nadu

- A total of 397 bird species were recorded in the wetland bird survey, while 401 species were identified in the terrestrial bird survey this year, according to the synchronised bird survey report released by Forests Minister during the inaugural of International Biodiversity Day events on Thursday.
- The wetland survey revealed that 397 species are directly or indirectly associated with wetlands. Notably, 136 long-distance migratory species were observed, making up 34% of the total species recorded.

- Key bird species observed in wetlands include the Greylag Goose, Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Curlew, Pied Avocet, and Lesser Crested Tern. Surveys were conducted across 934 wetland sites, with all forest divisions instructed to cover approximately 20 locations per district.
- In terms of species richness, the districts of Coimbatore, Erode, and Dindigul recorded more than 200 species each.

1,093 places covered

- The terrestrial survey covered 1,093 locations across urban, rural, and protected areas, again aiming for around 20 spots per forest division.
- **Bird Census - First Phase**
 - Wetland areas: 934
 - Wetland bird species: 397
 - Total bird count: 5,52,349
- **Bird Census - Second Phase:**
 - Land areas: 1,093
 - Land bird species: 401
 - Total bird count: 2,32,519
- **Areas with Maximum Bird Counts:**
 - Thiruvapur: 70,356
 - Ariyalur: 59,569
 - Nagapattinam: 33,622
 - Sivaganga: 26,326
 - Chennai: 24,048

Ladakh - Worlds highest recorded density of snow leopards

- Recent studies reveal that Ladakh is home to the highest density of snow leopards in the world.
- Approximately 68 percent of India's snow leopard population resides in Ladakh, with Hemis National Park recording about 2.07

individuals per 100 km².

Jenu Kuruba Tribe

- **Context :** The Jenu Kuruba community had been evicted four decades ago in a bid to boost wildlife protection and tiger conservation in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka. Jenu Kuruba families recently began their long-awaited re-occupation of their ancestral homes inside the Nagarhole National Park.
- This is the first time Indigenous people in India have asserted their rights in this way
- The Jenu Kuruba is recognized as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), primarily found in the Kodagu and Mysore districts of Karnataka.

Annual climate report

- The United Nations warned on Wednesday that there is a 70% chance that average warming from 2025 to 2029 would exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius international benchmark.
- The planet is therefore expected to remain at historic levels of warming after the two hottest years ever recorded in 2023 and 2024, according to an annual climate report published by the World Meteorological Organization, the UN's weather and climate agency.
- Every fraction of a degree of additional warming can intensify heatwaves, extreme precipitation, droughts, and the melting of ice caps, sea ice and glaciers



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 REPORTS AND INDICES

UN Forecasts India's Economic Growth at 6.3% in 2025

- The United Nations has predicted that India's economic growth will be 6.3% in 2025.
- In a report on the economic conditions of world countries released last January, the UN had initially projected India's economic growth at 6.6%, but this has now been reduced to 6.3%.
- Similarly, the UN has stated that India's economic growth in 2026 will be 6.4%.
- Inflation in India, which was at 49% in 2024, is expected to decrease to 4.3% in 2025.

"30 Crore People at Risk of Starvation"

- Geneva, May 16: According to a study report jointly released by 16 voluntary organizations including the UN Food Security Agency, 295.3 crore people worldwide are facing the threat of starvation.
- The report, titled International Food Shortage Report, states:
- Conflicts in 19 countries including Myanmar, Nigeria, and Congo, along with drought in regions like Ethiopia and Afghanistan, have caused food shortages.
- There is a risk of severe nutritional deficiency for 1.4 crore children in Sudan, Yemen, and Haiti.

World Social Report 2025

- The United Nations released the World Social Report 2025, highlighting the urgent need for

a new global policy consensus focused on equity, economic security, and solidarity amid rising insecurity, inequality, and declining trust worldwide.

- This edition emphasizes the growing disparities in income, employment, and institutional trust, proposing strategies to realign global efforts toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 60% of the global population experiences economic insecurity, with over 690 million people still in extreme poverty.

Global Wind Report 2025

- This new assessment was released by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- Status of Wind Energy in India
 - In FY 2024–25, India added 4.15 GW of wind power capacity, up from 3.25 GW in FY 2023–24.
 - **Global Standing:** India ranks 4th globally in terms of total installed wind power capacity, trailing only behind China, the United States, and Germany.
 - **State-wise Distribution:** As of 2025, the top wind energy-producing states in India are Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
 - **Offshore Wind Energy Potential:** The National Institute of Wind Energy estimates that Gujarat has 36 GW and Tamil Nadu about 35 GW of offshore wind energy potential.

First Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

- India is set to establish its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- This landmark project aims to position India as a global technology hub.
- The SEZ will be developed by RackBank Datacenters Pvt. Ltd. with an investment of Rs.1,000 crore.
- It is expected to enhance AI research, development, and deployment across the country.
- The AI SEZ will cover six acres and feature a 1.5 lakh square foot data centre.
- This facility will include advanced servers and systems designed for AI technologies.
- The SEZ aims to support large-scale digital operations and house four high-density data centres with a combined capacity of 80 megawatts.

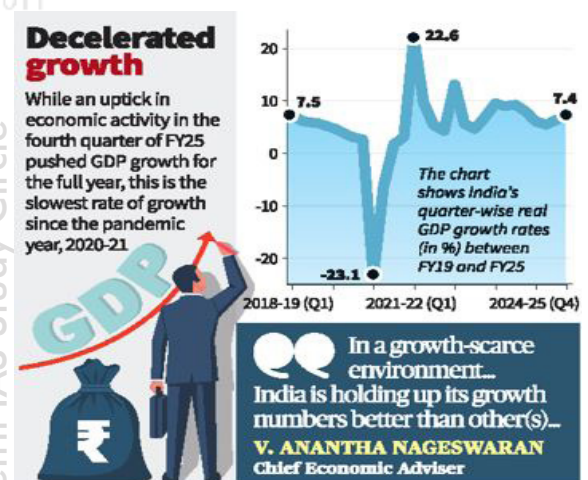
Growth in industrial activity

- Growth in industrial activity in the country slowed to an eight-month low of 2.7% in April 2025, dragged down by lower activity in several sectors according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for April 2025 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- The manufacturing sector also saw a growth of 3.4%, a three-month high.
- The electricity sector saw growth slowing to 1.1% in April, also the slowest since August 2024.

- Similarly, the primary goods category contracted by 0.4% in April, an eight-month low
- The 'Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry & Fishing' sector grew 5.4% in Q4 of the year, up from 0.9% in Q4 of 2023-24.
- This helped propel the full year's growth for the sector to 4.6% in 2024-25, up from 2.7% in 2023-24.
- The manufacturing sector's growth stood at 4.8% in Q4 of FY25, the second fastest quarterly growth in the year, on a high base of 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year.

GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25

- As per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in the year.
- It was still slower than 8.4% growth seen in Q4 of the previous financial year.
- Quarterly GDP growth in Q3 stood at 6.4%.



4.2 MONEY & BANKING

New Development Bank (NDB)

- Algeria has formally joined the New Development Bank (NDB)—an institution established by the BRICS nations—on May 19, 2025.

About the NDB

- Established in 2015 by BRICS nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China.
- Current President: Dilma Rousseff (Brazil).

RBI Launches 3 Key Surveys for Monetary Policy Input

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three important consumer surveys aimed at gathering public perception on inflation, employment, income, and overall economic confidence.
 - The Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)
 - The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS)
 - The Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)





5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

A new sub-variant of Covid-19

- A new sub-variant of Covid-19, named NB.1.8.1, was identified in India. This variant is a descendant of the Omicron lineage JN.1 and has raised concerns due to its potential transmissibility.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) classified it as a 'Variant Under Monitoring' (VUM),
- NB.1.8.1 originated from the recombinant ancestor XDV.1.5.1. Its earliest samples date back to January 22, 2025.

5.2 SPACE

PSLV C-61

- Sriharikota The PSLV C-61 rocket carrying an Earth observation satellite is scheduled to be launched from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, May 18
- ISRO has been developing and deploying various satellites for Earth observation and remote sensing applications, including Cartosat, Scatsat, RISAT, and others.
- In this series, ISRO has designed the advanced ES-09 (RISAT-B) satellite for Earth observation activities. This satellite is scheduled to be launched on Sunday (May 18) at 5:59 AM from the launch pad at Sriharikota using the PSLV C-1 rocket.
- This technology can be used for military surveillance operations necessary for defense. Additionally, this technology will be useful for disaster management, agriculture, and forest conservation.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched its 100th satellite from Sriharikota last January.

Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) initiative by IN-SPACe

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has introduced a new initiative named Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS).
- This initiative aims to encourage private companies in India to design and develop satellite-bus platforms.
- The goal is to reduce import dependence and encourage innovation within the Indian space sector.
- A satellite bus is the modular structure that forms the core of a satellite. It supports essential systems required for the satellite's operation.

About IN-SPACe

- IN-SPACe functions as an autonomous agency within the Department of Space.
- Established in June 2020, it promotes private sector participation in space activities.
- The agency is responsible for authorising and supervising various space projects, including satellite and launch vehicle development.



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Judicial services examination

- The Supreme Court has reinstated a pivotal eligibility criterion for aspirants of the judicial services examination.
- The candidates must possess a minimum of three years of legal practice to qualify for entry-level judicial positions, such as Civil Judge (Junior Division) posts.
- This decision overturns the 2002 ruling that allowed fresh law graduates to directly enter the judiciary without prior courtroom experience.

Revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal

- The Government of India has launched a revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal. This initiative aims to improve immigration facilities for OCI cardholders.
- The OCI scheme was established in 2005 through an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It allows Persons of Indian Origin who were citizens of India post-26 January 1950 to register as Overseas Citizens.
- However, individuals with Pakistani or Bangladeshi ancestry are excluded from eligibility.

World Health Organization's 78th Assembly

- In Geneva, Switzerland, Prime Minister

Modi addressed the ongoing 78th assembly of the World Health Organization via video conference.

- The theme of this year's World Health Organization assembly is "**One World for Health.**"
- Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health insurance scheme, covers 580 million people and provides them with free treatment. Recently, this program was expanded to include all those over 70 years of age.
- Yoga Day Theme The 11th International Yoga Day will be celebrated on June 21. This year, the theme "One Earth. Yoga for One Health" will be followed.

PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals

- The Government of India has renewed its Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to boost domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing.
- This initiative focuses on increasing the production of critical pharmaceutical products.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has invited applications from manufacturers for 11 essential products.

Swachh Survekshan

- Swachh Survekshan, an annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The survey evaluates urban local bodies (ULBs) on multiple parameters

- The top 10 cleanest cities for 2025, along with their states, are:

- Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Surat, Gujarat
- Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Rajkot, Gujarat
- Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Pune, Maharashtra

World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025

- At the inaugural WAVES Summit 2025 in Mumbai, the Prime Minister highlighted India's creative economy as a powerful driver of future GDP growth, innovation, and inclusive development.
- The first edition of the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 is being hosted by India at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025.

What is Creative Economy?

- Definition: The creative economy (orange economy) is an evolving concept based on the contribution and potential of creative assets to economic growth and development.
- It includes Media & Entertainment, Advertising and Marketing, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR), etc.
- The United Nations declared 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, emphasizing its global importance.

India Becomes World's 4th Largest Economy

- India has overtaken Japan to become the world's 4th largest economy, with its GDP surpassing \$4 trillion, as announced by NITI Aayog in early 2025.
- This is a significant milestone in India's economic journey, positioning it behind only the United States, China, and Germany.
- The IMF's World Economic Outlook for April 2025 estimates India's growth rate at 6.2% for 2025, down slightly from previous forecasts but still robust.
- The nation is set to surpass Germany to become the third-largest economy by 2030.
- Global economic growth is projected at just 2.8%, with significant challenges posed by trade tensions and policy uncertainty.

Judicial services examination

- The Supreme Court has reinstated a pivotal eligibility criterion for aspirants of the judicial services examination.
- The candidates must possess a minimum of three years of legal practice to qualify for entry-level judicial positions, such as Civil Judge (Junior Division) posts.
- This decision overturns the 2002 ruling that allowed fresh law graduates to directly enter the judiciary without prior courtroom experience.

Revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) portal

- The Government of India has launched a revamped Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)

portal. This initiative aims to improve immigration facilities for OCI cardholders.

- The OCI scheme was established in 2005 through an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It allows Persons of Indian Origin who were citizens of India post-26 January 1950 to register as Overseas Citizens.
- However, individuals with Pakistani or Bangladeshi ancestry are excluded from eligibility.

especially with allegations of the killing of tribals and youths.

- The Union Home Minister announced that the central government is working towards a Naxal-free India, setting a target to eliminate Naxalism by 31st March 2026, ensuring that no citizen has to lose their life because of it.

India Becomes the Third-Largest Vehicle Manufacturer in the World

- India's automotive sector has made remarkable progress in recent years.
- The country has firmly positioned itself as the third-largest vehicle manufacturer globally, trailing only behind China and the United States.
- The automobile sector contributes 7.1% to India's GDP and accounts for approximately 4.7% of the country's total exports.

Indore Becomes India's First Beggar-Free City

- Indore, Madhya Pradesh, has been declared India's first beggar-free city under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat (begging-free India) initiative.
- The achievement, also recognised by the World Bank, follows sustained rehabilitation efforts under the "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging", a sub-scheme of SMILE scheme.

About SMILE Scheme: Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging

- Launched in 2022, the SMILE scheme includes 2 sub-schemes: Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging and Empowerment of Transgender Persons.

World Health Organization's 78th Assembly

- In Geneva, Switzerland, Prime Minister Modi addressed the ongoing 78th assembly of the World Health Organization via video conference.
- The theme of this year's World Health Organization assembly is "One World for Health."
- Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health insurance scheme, covers 580 million people and provides them with free treatment. Recently, this program was expanded to include all those over 70 years of age.
- Yoga Day Theme The 11th International Yoga Day will be celebrated on June 21. This year, the theme "One Earth. Yoga for One Health" will be followed.

Operation Kagar

- Operation Kagar, launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- This operation, aimed at eliminating Maoist insurgents in Chhattisgarh, has sparked criticism for its heavy-handed approach,

- The goal is to rehabilitate at least 8,000 individuals from FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26.

Bharat Forecast System

- The Bharat Forecast System improves weather prediction resolution from 12 km to 6 km.
- This enhancement allows for precise and location-specific forecasts for every village in India.
- Developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.

India's coastline length.

- In December 2024, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced revision of India's coastline length.
- The new measurement reveals an increase from 7,516.6 km to 11,098.8 km. This change is not due to territorial expansion or geological shifts.
- Instead, it stems from advancements in measurement technology and an understanding of the coastline paradox.
- The original coastline length was recorded in the 1970s using maps at a resolution of 14,500,000.
- This coarse scale failed to capture the intricate features of India's coastline. Features like estuaries, tidal creeks, and coastal ridges were overlooked.
- The last coastal state to join India was Goa in 1961, with Sikkim being landlocked.

Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inaugurated the Quantum Technology Research Centre

(QTRC) at Metcalfe House, Delhi, aiming to accelerate India's indigenous research in quantum technologies for strategic and defence applications

- the centre is equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure for developing quantum communication, sensing, and timekeeping technologies, placing India at the forefront of quantum innovation.

Key Objectives of QTRC

- To develop and test indigenous quantum technologies for national security.
- Enhance secure quantum communications through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).
- Strengthen India's strategic edge in post-quantum cryptography and quantum sensing.

International Recognition for AYUSH Medicine

- An agreement has been signed between the World Health Organization and the Central Ministry of AYUSH as a major milestone in efforts to gain global recognition for traditional Indian AYUSH medical systems.
- This agreement was signed last Saturday to begin work on creating a dedicated traditional medicine module under the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).
- According to the AYUSH Ministry statement, with the inclusion of the traditional medicine module in the ICHI classification, treatments from medical branches including Siddha, Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, and Homeopathy will now be recognized as globally standardized treatment methods.

Life expectancy in India drops for the first time in five decades

- Expectation of life at birth for India has dropped for the first time in 50 years, registering a decrease of 0.2 years in a year.
- Life expectancy at birth has been estimated at 69.8 years between 2017 and 2021, compared to 2016-2020.
- For rural and urban areas, life expectancy has declined by 0.1 years and 0.3 years respectively for the same time period.
- Life expectation at birth was registered highest in Delhi at 73 years for males and Kerala for females at 77.9 years. The lowest was noted in Chhattisgarh with 62.8 years for males and 66.4 years for females.
- The report was published by Registrar General of India (RGI), under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

BrahMos Missile Production unit

- The BrahMos missile production unit was officially inaugurated at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, Lucknow.
- This facility is a key part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

About BrahMos Missile

- It is a long range supersonic cruise missile system.
- It is developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between DRDO and NPOM of Russia.

EC's single-point dashboard

- The new integrated dashboard developed by the Election Commission is set to become operational during the current round of Assembly byelections and the upcoming Bihar Assembly election.
- The dashboard, named ECINET, is aimed at providing all services for stakeholders at a single point, instead of the over 40 apps or websites that exist now.
- Some of the other initiatives taken by the EC since then include direct integration of death registration data from the Registrar General of India to enable timely and verified removal of deceased electors from the rolls and training of grassroots polling officers to streamline poll management.
- The EC has also revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from 1,500 to 1,200. Additional polling booths will be established in densely populated areas such as gated communities and high-rise buildings.



7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AIM4NatuRe Initiative

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Earth Day (22nd April) launched Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Nature Restoration (AIM4NatuRe).
- It aims to improve monitoring and reporting of global ecosystem restoration efforts.
- It is part of FAO's AIM4Forests Programme, expanding the scope beyond forests to provide a holistic approach to nature restoration





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Chola Era Inscription of Parantaka

Cholan Found in Shiva Temple

- The Tamil Nadu government has reported that an inscription of Parantaka Cholan I has been discovered in a Shiva temple in Ootathur, Trichy district.
- A total of 13 new inscriptions were discovered in Ootathur, which was called Thiruvurathur in ancient inscriptions. Of these, 5 inscriptions are complete while the other 7 are fragmentary.
- These inscriptions contain partial historical information about the victories of Raja Raja I and Rajendra I. Of the 5 complete inscriptions, 4 belong to the Chola period. The other one is reported to be from the Pandya period.

Space Sector Policy

- Tamil Nadu has officially joined the league of Indian states with dedicated space sector policies by unveiling its Space Industrial Policy in April 2025.
- Aimed at boosting economic growth and job creation, the policy seeks to attract Rs.10,000 crore in investments over the next five years.
- The move places Tamil Nadu alongside Karnataka and Gujarat as states with targeted plans to promote the private space sector.

Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

- Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

- The scheme aims to promote the production of electronic components in the State.
- “Tami Nadu becomes the first State in India to launch a dedicated state Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme.”
- Tamil Nadu recorded its highest-ever electronics exports of \$14.65 billion in FY2025, accounting for 41.2% share of India’s total electronics exports.
- This initiative will attract investments worth Rs.30,000 crore and generate employment opportunities for 60,000 individuals.
- Recalling that it formulated the Tamil Nadu Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024, which had paved the way for the State to emerge as a frontrunner in the production of electronic goods, the government said the Chief Minister launched this special scheme to strengthen the State’s electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Thozhi’ working women’s hostels

- Hostels for women will be constructed at a cost of Rs.176.93 crores in Chennai Taramani, Cheppaakkam, Madurai, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Theni, Sivaganga, Erode, Ranipet, and Karur.

Nutrition Program

- The Social Welfare Department has reported that 74% of children have recovered from severe malnutrition to normal condition.
- The "Ensure Nutrition" program was launched in 2022 by the Social Welfare and Women's Rights Department. The department announced this program to create a prosperous and healthy future for children under six years of age, keeping their health in consideration.
- In the first phase of the "Ensure Nutrition" program, the growth status of 37,79,407 children across Tamil Nadu was monitored.
- The second phase of the "Ensure Nutrition" program was launched in Ariyalur district in November last year

TN sets sail in shipbuilding with first-ever policy

- Tamils have a rich tradition in shipbuilding dating to the Sangam period, said finance minister Thangam Thennarasu as he unveiled the state's first 'maritime transport manufacturing policy 2025', which the govt believes will position Tamil Nadu as a global shipbuilding hub.
- This policy aims to promote investment and innovation in ship and boat design, ship hull fabrication and ship engine production as well as generate 30,000 jobs in districts such as Cuddalore and Tuticorin, while developing the MSME sector.
- The policy is part of the state's efforts to capture a sizable share of the pie in India's shipbuilding market, which is projected to cross \$8 billion by 2033.

Tamil Nadu government lists its achievements in the past four years

- An official release listed out the sectors in which Tamil Nadu has excelled, all of which together, have made the State achieve an economic growth of 9.69%.
- The export from Tamil Nadu which stood at 26.16 billion USD in 2020-21 has since been increased to 52.07 USD in 2024-25.
- By exporting electronic goods worth 14.65 billion USD, Tamil Nadu stood number one in the country surpassing Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- As for employment opportunities created both in public and private sectors, the government said that the number of workers increased from 2.9 crore in 2020-21 to 3.87 crore by 2024-25.
- Programmes such as Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, Illam Thedi Kalvi, Naan Mudhalvan and Kalaignar Kanavu Illam implemented by the government have propelled Tamil Nadu to record levels of development, making it the top State among all Indian States.
- Tamil Nadu's higher education enrolment rate stood at 51.3% in 2023-2024, while the national average was 26%.
- While the crime rate against women was 66.4 per lakh population nationally, it was 24 in Tamil Nadu — a significant reduction, ensuring the safety and well-being of women.
- As for global skill centres, Chennai, with a growth rate of 24.5% and 94,121 skill centres,

has surpassed Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and other cities in the country.

Special Pulse Examination Center and Telemedicine Center

- Central AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav inaugurated the newly established Special Pulse Examination Center and Telemedicine Center at the Tambaram National Siddha Research Center Hospital on Monday.

Municipal Bonds

- The event to list Chennai Corporation's urban financial bonds worth Rs. 200 crores on the National Stock Exchange took place in Chennai on Monday. The Chief Minister inaugurated this event by ringing the bell.
- This will reduce interest payments on loans and improve the corporation's financial position while raising funds for essential infrastructure works including rainwater drainage.
- What are Financial Bonds for?
- Why are Chennai Corporation's financial bonds being listed on the National Stock Exchange for the first time in Tamil Nadu?
- He mentioned that similar activities will be followed by Tirupur, Coimbatore, and Trichy corporations, which are also planning to list financial bonds.

In Tamil Nadu comprehensive nutritional, immunisation services pay off with steadily decreasing deaths among under-fives

- Tamil Nadu has been making steady progress in reducing deaths among children under the age of five over the past few years.

Data from the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine showed that the under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) has been falling steadily in the past few years -- from 10.9 during 2022-2023, it dropped to 8.2 during 2024-2025.

Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu attain U.N. Sustainable Development Goals in MMR, U5MR, NMR

- According to the Sample Registration System Report 2021 released by the Registrar General of India, three States in India — Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu — have attained the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets in Maternal Mortality Rate or MMR (≤ 70 by 2030); Under-Five Mortality Rate or U5MR (≤ 25 by 2030); and Mortality Rate or NMR (≤ 12 by 2030).
- According to the report, eight States have already attained the MMR SDG target, including Kerala (20), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (45), Andhra Pradesh (46), Tamil Nadu (49), Jharkhand (51), Gujarat (53), and Karnataka (63).
- Twelve States/Union Territories have already attained the U5MR SDG target — Kerala (eight), Delhi (14), Tamil Nadu (14), Jammu & Kashmir (16), Maharashtra (16), West Bengal (20), Karnataka (21), Punjab (22), Telangana (22), Himachal Pradesh (23), Andhra Pradesh (24), and Gujarat (24).
- Six States/Union Territories have already attained the NMR SDG target — Kerala (four), Delhi (eight), Tamil Nadu (nine), Maharashtra

(11), Jammu & Kashmir (12), and Himachal Pradesh (12).

- India has continued to see significant improvement in key maternal and child health indicators.
- India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1,000 live births in 2021.
- The NMR declined from 26 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1,000 live births in 2021.
- The U5MR declined from 45 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 31 per 1,000 live births in 2021.
- The Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 899 in 2014 to 913 in 2021.
- The Total Fertility Rate has remained consistent at 2.0 in 2021, a significant improvement from 2.3 in 2014.
- India is among the top performing countries with reduction in Child Mortality Rates.
- As per the [Sample Registration System] report, India achieved a 78% decline in the U5MR surpassing the global reduction of 61%, 70% decline in the NMR compared to 54% globally, and 71% decline in the IMR compared to 58% globally, over the past 33 years from 1990 to 2023.

Suvadugal- Digital Repository

- The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has initiated steps for an ambitious project to create a digital repository titled 'Suvadugal' to document and preserve the traditional performing arts of Adi Dravidar and tribal communities across Tamil Nadu.
- The project aims to digitally archive thousands of indigenous art forms and oral traditions that are gradually fading with time.
- Tamil Nadu is home to a vibrant array of artistic expressions — from folk dances and musical traditions to the crafting of unique instruments and costumes — all of which are deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of these communities.
- Over 560 art forms are still performed by these communities across the State.
- Some notable examples include Singari Melam from Dindigul, Radha Kavadi from Nagapattinam, Kaniyan Koothu from Tirunelveli, Periya Melam from Tiruvannamalai, Perum Parai from Anthiyur and Malai Koothu from Dharmapuri.
- Bootha Kabala Aatam is a unique ritualistic performance seen only at specific temples in Dharmapuri district.