

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

FEBRUARY 2024



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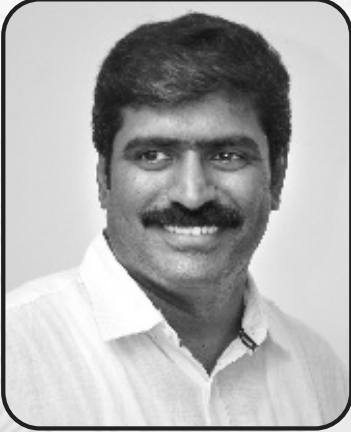
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Preface



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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.

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

Pages : 68

Size : (240 × 180) mm

Price : ₹ 40

Published by:

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

F Block New No. 1, 9th Street,

1st Avenue Main Road, Chinthamani,

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CONTENTS

HISTORY 01



07 POLITICAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY 11



13 ECONOMICS

SCIENCE 16



**NATIONAL-DIARY OF
EVENT**

17



19

**INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

20



1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 1	48th Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 48th Raising Day on February 1, 2024, in New Delhi, commemorating its origin on February 1, 1977.▪ ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 on February 1, 1977.
February 2	World Wetlands Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Wetlands Day was celebrated annually on 2 February.▪ It aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.▪ The day commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.▪ Theme 2024: Wetlands and human wellbeing
February 4	International Day of Human Fraternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ International Day of Human Fraternity is observed every year on February 4 to emphasize the importance of the concept of unity in diversity.▪ The day was first observed by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2020.
February 5	World Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Cancer Day is observed on February 5 every year to raise awareness about the disease and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.▪ Theme 2024 : 'Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care.'

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 9	Abolition of Bonded Labor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Tamil Nadu Government has announced that February 9 will be observed as Bonded Labor Eradication Day every year. ▪ The State Government aims to make Tamil Nadu a Bonded Labor Free State by 2030.
10 February and 10 August	National Deworming Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Deworming Day (NDD) is observed twice in a year on 10 February and 10 August to raise awareness about the symptoms, causes, and harmful effects of parasitic worm infections in children, and the importance of deworming treatment. ▪ It is an initiative taken by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
February 10	World Pulses Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Pulses Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the significance of pulses and how it can help in body functions. ▪ The day was first observed in 2018. ▪ International Year of Pulses is observed in 2016.
February 10	International Day of the Arabian Leopard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Day is observed for the first time on February 10, 2024 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard ▪ The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly ▪ IUCN Red List - Critically Endangered.
February 11	World Unani Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Unani Day is celebrated every year on 11th February marking birth anniversary of famous Indian Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan. ▪ It is officially recognized as one of the AYUSH systems.
February 12	National Productivity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Productivity Day is observed every year on February 12 to mark the foundation day of the National Productivity Council (NPC). ▪ NPC aims to promote awareness towards increasing the productivity of the country. ▪ Theme 2024: Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency.

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 12	International Epilepsy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Epilepsy Day is observed on the 2nd Monday of February every year. ▪ The day is observed to raise awareness about epilepsy, its diagnosis, treatment, and the challenges faced by those living with the condition. ▪ In 2024 the day was observed on February 12, 2024. ▪ Theme 2024: "Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey"
February 13	National Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Women's Day is observed every year on February 13 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. ▪ Sarojini Naidu was a distinguished political figure as well as a distinguished writer. ▪ She was given the honour of being called the "Nightingale of India" by Mahatma Gandhi. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8.
February 13	World Radio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Radio Day is observed on February 13 every year to celebrate the usage of Radio. ▪ The day was established in 2011 by UNESCO. ▪ Theme 2024: "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".
February 17	World Pangolin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Pangolin Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in February and in 2024 it takes place on February 17. ▪ The day is observed to raise awareness for the conservation's efforts of one of the world's most trafficked mammals. ▪ The day is observed in India with special focus on the plight of the Indian Pangolin.
February 19	Soil Health Card Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soil Health Card Day is observed on February 19 every year to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme and to raise awareness of its advantages. ▪ SHC Scheme was launched on 19 February 2015. ▪ SHC is a printed report which contains nutrient status of soil with respect to 12 nutrients

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
February 20	Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arunachal Pradesh celebrated its 38th Statehood Day on 20 February On 20th February 1987, Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged State. It was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) till 1972. On 20 January 1972, it gained the status of a Union Territory and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh. Article 371H deals with the special provisions for the state of Arunachal Pradesh
February 21	International Mother Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is observed on 21 February every year to spread awareness about the importance of linguistic, cultural diversity, and multilingualism. 2024 theme "Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning".
February 24	Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 24, which marks the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalithaa, is observed as the 'State Girl Child Protection Day'. The day was first observed in 2020.
February 28	National Science Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year February 28 is observed as National Science Day to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Scientist CV Raman. Theme 2024 : "Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat"

1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Sada Tanseeq Exercise

- The first joint military exercise, **Sada Tanseeq**, between the **India and the Saudi Arabia** was concluded at **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- The 12-day exercise aimed to achieve interoperability between the two forces.

'Dosti-16' Exercise

- The **16th edition** of the **India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral Exercise** known as '**Dosti-16**' is being held in Maldives.

- Dosti exercise first began in 1991 between India and Maldives.
- Sri Lanka joined the exercise in 2012.

'Dharma Guardian'

- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise "**Dharma Guardian**" was held between **India and Japan in Rajasthan**.
- It is an annual exercise and is conducted alternatively between India and Japan.

1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATIONS

Raisina Dialogue

- The **ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati (1824 - 1883)

- **200th Birth Anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati** was observed recently.
- His original name was **Mula Shankar**.
- He was a disciple of **Swami Virajananda**.
- He founded the **Arya Samaj**.

1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

Khelo India Youth Games 2023

- The **6th edition of Khelo India Youth Games** was concluded at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai**.
- **Maharashtra** bagged the overall championships for the **fourth time**.
- **Tamil Nadu** finished **second** and **Haryana** finished third.
- **Silambam** which is a **traditional sport of Tamil Nadu** was introduced as a demo sport for the first time.

2024 Badminton Asia Team Championship

- **India** **beat Thailand** to win its first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships
- This is the **first time India is winning gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships**

1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

Bharat Ratna

- Former Deputy Prime Minister **L.K.Advani** was announced **Bharat Ratna** which is India's highest civilian honour by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- In 2015, he was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour**.
- The **Bharat Ratna** was conferred on former Prime Ministers **P.V. Narasimha Rao** and **Chaudhary Charan Singh** and Green Revolution pioneer **M.S. Swaminathan**.
- **M.S. Swaminathan** – Played an instrumental role in Green Revolution and towards food self-sufficiency in India
- **P.V. Narasimha Rao** - Credited with steering the liberalisation of Indian Economy
- **Chaudhary Charan Singh** - Credited as a leader of farmers in North India

Grammy Awards

- **Shakti group** won the **2024 Grammy Award** for Best Global Music Album for the album. This Moment.
- **Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, Ustad Zakir Hussain** and **V. Selvaganesh** are collaborators in the **fusion group 'Shakti'**.
- **Ustad Zakir Hussain** won **two other awards** – the Best Global Music Performance for 'Pashto' and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for 'As We Speak'.

National Film Awards renamed

- National Film Awards have been renamed on the recommendation of the **Committee for Rationalisation of Film Awards**.
- The committee was set up by the **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** to rationalise the honours given in different categories.
- It was headed by **Neerja Sekhar**

Jnanpith Award

- Urdu poet **Gulzar** and Sanskrit scholar **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya** have been selected for the 58th Jnanpith Award recently.
- Jnanpith is considered to be **India's highest literary honour**.
- The Jnanpith Award is presented by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith**, which was established in 1944.

"Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur".

- **Shashi Tharoor** recently received France's highest civilian award, "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur".
- **Durga Charan Rakshit** was the **first Indian** to receive this award.

Kalaingar Ezhudhukol Award

- Senior journalist **V.N.Samy** was awarded the **Kalaingar Ezhudhukol Award** recently for the year 2022.
- 'Kalaingar Ezhudhukol Award' is awarded for journalists who strive for the welfare of the society.
- The award carries **Rs. 5 lakh cash prize and a certificate**.

1.7 APPOINTMENTS

CM of Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** leader **Champai Soren** took oath as the **twelfth Chief Minister of Jharkhand**.
- He is known as "**Jharkhand's tiger**," for playing a crucial role in the fight for the creation of a separate **Jharkhand state in the 1990s**.

recommending a formula for sharing **divisible pool of taxes between the Centre and States** for the **five-year period beginning April 2026**.

- It was chaired by former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Arvind Panagariya**.
- The panel has to submit recommendations by **October 31, 2025**.

Panel on simultaneous polls

- Union Law Minister **Arjun Meghwal** informed the **Lok Sabha** that **no specific time limit** had been provided for the high-level committee on simultaneous polls.
- The Panel was formed under the former President **Ram Nath Kovind** to submit the **report on one nation, one election**.

Chairperson of the Lokpal

Justice **Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** was recently appointed as the **new Chairperson** of the **Lokpal**.

Appointments in Lokpal are made by the **President** on recommendation of a **five-member** selection committee

- Prime Minister (Head)
- Chief Justice of India
- Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- An eminent jurist

16th Finance Commission

- The 16th Finance Commission held its **first meeting in New Delhi** recently.
- The Finance Commission is tasked with

2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

UPI in France

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was formally launched at the **Eiffel Tower in Paris**.
- This will enable the Indian tourists to buy tickets at **Eiffel Tower** through UPI.
- **NPCI International Payments (NIPL)** which is the international arm of **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the facility.

Unified Payment Interface

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** announced that India launched **UPI services in Mauritius and Sri Lanka** and also **RuPay card services in Mauritius**.
- This will boost digital transformation, promote tourism and strengthen bilateral economies ties with both countries

India - UAE

- **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed eight pacts including a bilateral investment treaty and a framework deal on **India Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)** to foster regional connectivity during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to UAE.
- Currently, **bilateral trade** between the two countries stands at **\$85 million**.

India - Nepal

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)** signed an agreement to integrate fast payment systems of India and Nepal through **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and **National Payments Interface (NPI)** of Nepal, respectively.
- The integration is aimed at facilitating cross border remittances between **India and Nepal**.

2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Bill was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** to provide reservation to **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in panchayats and municipal bodies in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The number of seats reserved for OBCs will be decided by a commission that will be formed after the legislation is passed by Parliament.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- The Bill was passed in the **Lok Sabha** to check malpractices and organised cheating in government recruitment exams.
- The Bill aims to prevent unfair means in order to **bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system**.
- The Bill proposes a **minimum of three years imprisonment** and a **fine up to ₹1 crore**.

Rajya Sabha passes Bills to add PVTGs

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024** and **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024**.
- The Bill was passed to add **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in Scheduled Tribe lists.
- The total number of PVTGs is 75.

Parliament Passes Three Bills on Jammu and Kashmir

- The Parliament passed the Bills that added the Paddari Tribe, Gadda Brahmin, and Koli communities to the **Scheduled Tribes (ST) list**.
- **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was passed to add the **Valmiki community (including synonyms)** to the Scheduled Castes list of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024** which seeks to provide reservation to **Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities** in Jammu and Kashmir was passed.

Electoral bonds scheme struck down

- A **five-judge Bench** headed by the **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** struck down the the electoral bonds scheme as **“unconstitutional”**.
- The court held that the preceding amendments made to the **Representation of the People Act, the Companies Act, and the Income Tax Act**, violated the voters’ **right to information** about political funding **under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution**.

Key Highlights

- Issuance of electoral bonds to be stopped
- **SBI** to submit full details of bonds purchased

by donors and subsequently encashed by political parties since **April 12, 2019** to the **Election Commission of India** by **March 6, 2024**.

- **ECI** to publish the entire information given by **SBI** on its website by **March 13, 2024**

Law to register NRI marriages

- The **Law Commission** has submitted a report regarding the **NRI Marriages** to the Union government recently.

Key Recommendations

- The report recommends a comprehensive law to register marriages of **non-resident Indians (NRIs)** to deal with situations arising out of **“fraudulent marriages”**.
- It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India.
- **Chairman of the Law Commission** is **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**.

Draft guidelines for Coaching Centres

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has released draft guidelines for the **“Prevention of misleading advertisement in coaching sector”** recently.
- The guidelines note such misleading advertisements as offences under the **Consumer Protection Act**.
- Earlier, the **CCPA** had formed a sub-committee to draft the guidelines.

Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022

- The Union government has recently amended the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022**
- The amendment notified that both gametes need not come from a married couple in case they are certified as suffering from a medical condition.
- The amendment also notified that **single women (widow or divorcee)** undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures

Three new criminal laws

- According to a notification released by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** the **three new criminal laws** that were passed by Parliament in **2023** will come into effect from **July 1, 2024**.
- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** that will replace the **Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, respectively, received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on **December 25, 2023**.
- The laws aim to overhaul the criminal justice system.

2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

One Stop Centres

- Union Minister Smriti Irani stated that **One Stop Centres** have been established in over **700 districts** across the country and around **8.3 lakh women** have received help through them.
- The **One Stop Centre** is a **scheme** of the **Women and Child Development Ministry** and is set up under the **Nirbhaya Fund**.
- The scheme aims to **support and assist women facing violence in public and private spaces, including domestic violence**.

Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

- **Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana** is set to be launched as part of a renewed thrust to increase adoption of **household rooftop solar systems (hRTS)**.
- The Centre would bear the entire cost of setting up such systems for households that consume **less than 300 units of electricity a month**.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the **"Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)"**.
- It is a **Central Sector Sub-scheme** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada**.
- **PM-MKSSY** aims to **formalize the fisheries sector** and support fisheries micro and small enterprises.

Initiatives under PMFBY

- **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda** launched three initiatives under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**. They are
- **Kisan Rakshak Helpline and Portal**
- **SARTHI Portal** : A digital insurance platform
- **Learning Management System (LMS) Platform** for the farming community.

Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Scheme

- **Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Scheme** which is a **Hygiene and sanitation rating system** for the hospitality sector is yet to take off in states.
- The ranking scheme was launched in **November 2023** by the **Union Tourism Ministry** in collaboration with the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- The scheme aims to ensure world-class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays

SWATI Portal

- The **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)** launched the **SWATI Portal** recently.
- **SWATI** stands for **Science for Women-A Technology and Innovation**.
- It aims to create a **single online portal** representing **Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine)**.

Amrit Bharat stations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **554 Amrit Bharat stations** across **27 States** and inaugurated rail overbridges and underbridges under **Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme (ABSS)**.
- **Objective** - To revamp key railway stations across the country.
- The scheme envisages to take-up **1275 stations for upgradation/modernisation over Indian Railway**.

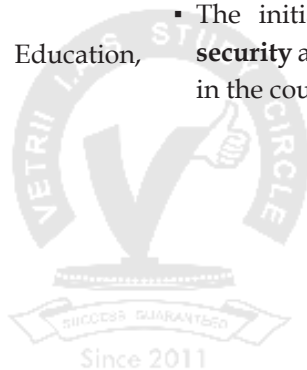
SWAYAM Plus Platform

- The **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **'SWAYAM Plus' platform**.
- It is funded by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education.

- IIT Madras - Nodal agency for implementing SWAYAM Plus.
- It was launched in collaboration with leading industry players to bring employability and professional development focussed programmes to its learners.

World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan' in cooperative sector**.
- It covers **11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** in 11 States.
- Under this initiative, foundation stone was laid for additional **500 PACS** across the country for construction of godowns and other agri-infrastructure.
- The initiative is aimed at **fortifying food security** and **fostering economic development** in the country.





3. GEOGRAPHY

3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

New Ramsar sites

- India has recently added 5 Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) taking the total number to 80 from existing 75.
- The five wetlands include,
 - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
 - Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Karnataka
 - Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu
 - Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Karnataka
 - Aghanashini Estuary, Karnataka
- Longwood Shola covers 116.07 hectares. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
- Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary covers 453.7 hectares. It is also an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
- With the new addition the total number of wetlands in Tamil Nadu become 16 which is the highest in the country.

18th wildlife sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently notified Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
- The sanctuary stretches across 80,114.80 hectares of the reserve forests in Bargur Hills in Erode district.
- The sanctuary links the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve with the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The area has already been identified as a Tiger corridor by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Patna Declaration

- The Government of Bihar presented the 'Patna Declaration' at a three-day international workshop held at Patna recently.
- It aims to prevent illegal hunting of wild and migratory birds and recommend measures to strengthen their conservation efforts in countries along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

Wetland bird census

- According to the Synchronised Wetland Bird Census for the year 2024 there are 6,80,028 wetland birds in Tamil Nadu.
- It is estimated that there are 5,36,245 water birds (79 percent) and 1,43,783 terrestrial birds (21 percent) of the total bird population.

Artificial Intelligence monitoring System

- Tamil Nadu launches India's first Artificial Intelligence Surveillance System to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks.
- The alert mechanism has been divided into 'three zones' - Red, Orange, and Yellow which is based on the projected distance between the track and elephant

New Biodiversity Heritage Site

- Gupteswar forest in Koraput district has been declared as Odisha's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) recently.
- BHS is declared under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

- The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was concluded in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The State of Migratory Species Report 2024 was released in the summit.
- Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC) was launched to protect and connect natural areas of migratory species.
- One Health Central India Project was launched to address the concerns about zoonotic diseases.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 RECENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

100% FDI in space sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet approved the amendments to the existing **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on space sector** by allowing **100% FDI in space sector**.
- The amendment is made in line with the vision and strategy under the **Indian Space Policy 2023**.

4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

22nd Law Commission Report

- The **Law Commission** submitted its report to the Law Ministry recently.
- It has recommended that **criminal defamation** should be retained within the scheme of **criminal laws** in India.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 (CPI)

- India ranked **93 out of 180 countries** in the **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** for 2023.
- **Corruption Perceptions Index 2023** has been released by the **NGO Transparency International**.

AISHE 2021-22

- According to the latest report of the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** released by the **Ministry of Education**.

Key Highlights

- In **2021-22**, the **overall gross enrolment ratio (GER)** in higher education for the age group **18-23 years** increased to **28.4%**, **from 27.3% in 2020-21** and **23.7% in 2014-15**, the **base year**.
- The overall female enrolment increased to **2.07 crore in 2021-22**.
- **Tamil Nadu** consistently maintains the highest **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** in higher

education for five academic years between **2017-18 and 2021-22**.

All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey

- The summary of the findings of the **All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** carried out between **August 2022 and July 2023** was released by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** recently.

- The survey is carried out **every five years**.
- The survey aims at generating estimates of household **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)**

Key Findings

- The average **monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE)** in Indian households rose by **33.5%** since **2011-12** in urban households.
- The Proportion of spending on food has dropped to **46.4%** for rural households from **52.9% in 2011-12**

Note

- **NSSO** functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

4.3 PUBLIC FINANCE

Interim Budget

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her sixth Union Budget and her first interim Budget recently.

Tamil Nadu would receive ₹44,760.83 crore as its share of Central taxes as per the Interim Budget.

The total expenditure is estimated at ₹47.66 lakh crore.



Top Three Ministries

- Defence Ministry - ₹6.21 lakh crore
- Road Transport & Highways - ₹2.78 lakh crore
- Railways - ₹2.55 lakh crore.

Key Announcements

Social Sector: Interim Budget allocates ₹86,000 crore (increased) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

- Focus on four vulnerable sections of society – the poor, the youth, farmers, and women.
- A highpowered committee will be constituted to consider the challenges arising from fast population growth and demographic changes.

Agricultural Sector: The allocation for the Agriculture Ministry is ₹1,17,528.79 crore (increased)

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - ₹13,625 crore
- PM Kisan Samman Nidhi - ₹60,000 crore (same as last Budget)
- Fertilizer Department - ₹1,64,150.81 crore (decreased)



Education Sector: Both Higher Education and School Education received an increased budgetary allocation in the Interim Budget.

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) - ₹12,467.39 crore.

PM SHRI - ₹6,050 crore

Subsidies

Food subsidy: Allocation was increased.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) - ₹2,05,250

Sugar Subsidy under Public Distribution System - ₹1 lakh crore

Tax: Tax demands of up to ₹25,000 pertaining to the period till FY 200910, and up to ₹10,000 for FY 2011 to 2015 will be withdrawn.

Health Sector : 10,000 crore allocated

AB-PMJAY: Health cover under the Ayushman Bharat

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will be extended to all Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and anganwadi workers and helpers.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls in the

9-14 years age group for prevention of cervical cancer.

Anganwadi centres would be upgraded under 'Saksham Anganwadi',

Poshan 2.0 : It would be expedited to improve nutrition delivery and ensure early childhood care and development.

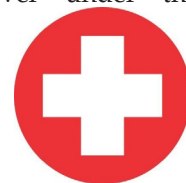
Research and Development:

A corpus of ₹lakh crore would be available on minimal or nil interest rates to encourage the private sector to invest in research and development in sunrise sectors.

National Quantum Mission - ₹,819 crore.

Women

Lakhpati Didi scheme: Target has been increased for the scheme which aims to train women self-help groups (SHGs) to



earn a sustainable income of **at least ₹1 lakh per annum** by setting up micro-enterprises within their villages.



- **Mission Shakti** - ₹3,145.97 crore

- **Energy**

- **Rooftop Solar Programme (PM Suryodaya Yojana):** One crore households will be enabled to obtain up to **300 units** of free electricity every month.

- **Housing**

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana PMAY-Rural :** Two crore more houses would be built.

- **Railways:**

- The **Ministry of Railways** has been allocated ₹2.55 lakh crore for 2024-25.

- **Three major economic corridor programmes,**

- **Energy Economic Corridor** - Energy, mineral and cement corridor.



- **Rail Sagar** - Port Connectivity Corridor.

- **Amrit Chaturbhuj** - High traffic density corridors.

- **Airways**

- **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)** has been slashed by **60%** when compared to last budget.

- **New Schemes Announced**

- A **new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry** was announced to provide environment friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bioplastics, biopharmaceuticals and bioagriinputs.

- A scheme to help the sections of the **middle class living in rented houses or slums or chawls** and unauthorised colonies to buy or build houses was announced.



5. SCIENCE

5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

'10,000 genome' project completed

- The **Department of Bio-technology (DBT)** officially announced the completion of the **'10,000 genome' project**.
- It is an attempt to create a reference database of whole genome sequences from India.
- India **first** sequenced a **complete human genome in 2006**.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** and the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad** are coordinating the project.

Three ISRO facilities

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **three facilities** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
 - **Trisonic Wind Tunnel** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 - **Integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** - Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
 - **Semicryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET)** - ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

5.2 SPACE

CE20 Cryogenic engine

- ISRO has accomplished a major milestone by successfully testing the **CE20 cryogenic engine** that powers the cryogenic stage of the **LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions**.
- **Gaganyaan Mission** aims to send a crew of **3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth.

GSLV F-14 rocket

- The **GSLV-F14 carrying INSAT-3DS** is scheduled for a launch from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- The satellite is aimed at augmenting weather forecasting, disaster management, and related meteorological services.
- The **GSLV-F14** is the **16th flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**, and the **10th flight** with the indigenous **cryo stage**.

- The **INSAT-3DS satellite** has a total mass of **2,275 kg**.
- It is equipped with **25 different diagnostic payloads including 6 Channel Imager**.

Gaganyaan crew announced

- India announced the names of the four astronaut-designates for the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission**, planned for launch in 2025.
- The names of the Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots are
 - **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**
 - **Group Captain Ajit Krishnan**
 - **Group Captain Angad Pratap**
 - **Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla**
- **Gaganyaan programme** - Aims to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

Bharat Mobility Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered inaugural address at India's largest mobility exhibition - **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 in New Delhi.**
- He said that government initiatives such as **Rooftop Solar Scheme (PM - Suryodaya Yojana)** and **Clean Cooking Mission** would provide boost to the battery manufacturing industry and bring down the **cost of batteries for electric vehicle.**

India's first Robotic Elephant

- **Kerala temple** become **India's first state** to induct **robotic elephant** for ritual duties
- The **Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala's Thrissur district** has become the **first** in the country to use a mechanical, **life like** elephant for temple rituals.

India Energy Week 2024

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India Energy Week 2024 in Goa.**
- **India Energy Week 2024** is India's largest energy exhibition and conference bringing together the entire energy value chain to catalyze India's energy transition goals.
- India ranks **fourth** in the world in **Renewable Energy Installed Capacity.**
- India aims to achieve **Net Zero Emission by 2070.**

Aadi Mahotsav 2024

- **Aadi Mahotsav 2024** is being organized in **New Delhi** to showcase rich diversity of India's tribal heritage.

- It is an annual **National Tribal Festival**, organized by **Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).**

HEMS Initiative

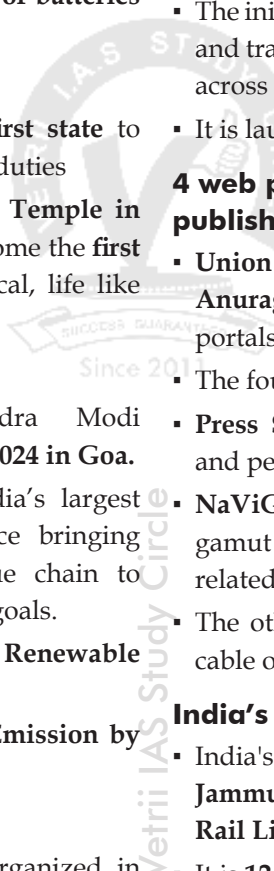
- **Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** will be launched for the first time India in **Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.**
- The initiative aims to extend medical assistance and trauma care services to a wider population across the country using helicopters.
- It is launched under '**Sanjeevani**' project.

4 web portals unveiled for news publishers

- **Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** launched four online portals for news publishers.
- The four portals include,
 - **Press Sewa** - for registration of newspapers and periodicals
 - **NaViGate Bharat** - for videos on the entire gamut of the government's development-related and citizen welfare oriented measures.
 - The other portals are for registration of local cable operators and for an e-billing system.

India's longest rail tunnel

- India's **longest rail tunnel** was opened in **Jammu on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link.**
- It is **12.77-km long.**
- It is known as **T-50** which runs between the **Khari-Sumber** section.



First Private Ammunition Manufacture Facility

- First two Private Ammunition Manufacture facilities for the manufacture of ammunition and missiles were opened by **Adani Defence and Aerospace in Kanpur**.
- The twin-facility complex, spread over **500 acres**.

India's longest cable-stayed bridge

- India's longest cable-stayed bridge - **Sudarshan Setu** was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Gujarat**.
- The bridge is **2.32 kilometers long**.
- The bridge links **Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka**.

India's First indigenous hydrogen ferry

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **India's First indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat**.

- It was launched under the **Harit Nauka** initiative in **Thoothukudi**.

- **Harit Nauka Guidelines** aims to embrace low/zero emission sources of fuel and attain 100% green vessels in the Indian waters by **2047**.

- The vessel has been built at the **Cochin Shipyard**.

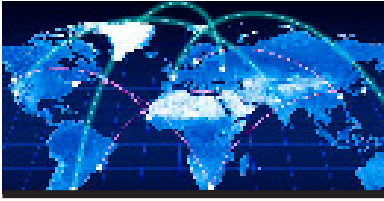
India Digital Summit (IDS) 2024

- The **18th edition** of the **India Digital Summit** is held in **Mumbai**.

- The **India Digital Summit (IDS)** is the flagship annual conference of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

- IAMAI is a **not-for-profit industry body** established in **2004**.





7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Abu Dhabi's First Hindu stone temple

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Abu Dhabi's First Hindu stone temple - Swami Narayana Temple**
- The temple was built by the organisation - **Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)**
- The temple is built on a **27-acre site in Abu Mreikhah, Abu Dhabi.**

First Woman Chief Minister in Pakistan

- Maryam Nawaz became the **Pakistan's First-ever woman Chief Minister in Eastern Punjab province.**
- She is the eldest daughter of Pakistan's former **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.**





8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Sevai scheme launched

- State health minister Ma Subramanian launched the 'Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Sevai' scheme at Thollavilai Primary Health Centre in Nagercoil.
- The scheme would support the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' (Doorstep Healthcare Scheme) scheme by bringing the facilities of diagnostic labs to the public.

'KaniTamil 24' conference

- International Tamil Computing Conference 2024 (KaniTamil 24) was inaugurated at Nandambakkam Trade Centre, Chennai.
- Tamil is one of the oldest languages of the world and a language full of characteristics to adapt itself to the changing times and is aimed at strengthening the place of Tamil languages in this growing age of Technology.

Road accidents see an upward trend in TN

- According to the data from the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) a total of 18,074 persons died in 66,841 road accidents reported in 2023 in Tamil Nadu.
- In terms of the total number of accidents in 2023,
 - Chennai and Coimbatore cities are at the top with 3,642 accidents each.
 - Chengalpattu followed with 3,387 accidents.

T.N. notifies land pooling scheme rules

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently notified the Tamil Nadu Land Pooling Area Development Scheme Rules, 2024.

- Tamil Nadu Land Pooling Area Development Scheme provides for pooling together land owned by individual or individuals and developing it by the appropriate planning authority.

Pudhumai Penn Thittam

- The Governor's policy address which was written by the Tamil Nadu government highlights that 2.73 lakh girl students are benefiting every month under the Pudhumai Penn scheme in 2023-24.
- As a result of this initiative there has been an increase of 34 percent in the enrolment of girl students from government schools into colleges during 2023-24.
- The scheme aims to provide a monthly cash assistance of ₹1,000 to all girl students pursuing higher education, who have completed their studies in government-run schools from Class 6 to 12.

Two Resolutions passed

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted two resolutions against the 'One nation, One Election' proposal and the proposed delimitation after 2026.
- Reasons for the resolution include,
 - 'One Nation, One Election' policy is impractical, and goes against the fundamentals of the Constitution.
- The delimitation proposed after 2026 would reduce the representation of the southern States, especially Tamil Nadu

T.N. increases allocation for meals under ICDS by ₹41 cr

- The Tamil Nadu government increased the financial allocation by **₹41.14 crore a year** for providing meals to children **aged 2 to 6**, under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.
- The additional expenditure would benefit over **11.50 lakh children**.

Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme

- TN government allocated **₹100 crore** for the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme run by the **School Education Department**.
- The additional funds have been allocated towards orientation, learning materials and incentivisation of volunteers for the scheme.
- The scheme was introduced in **2021** which is aimed at bridging learning gaps or losses the children would have experienced during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Kalaignar Sports Kit scheme

- **Sports Development and Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin** announced that the State government will launch an initiative called the 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' in **Tiruchi** on **February 7**.
- Under the initiative, the **sports equipment** will be distributed in **12,000 village panchayats** to mark former **Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi's birth centenary**.

The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently adopted the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023** recently.
- The Bill aims to further amend the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994**, for fixing the tenure of the **State Election Commissioner** to "**five/six year or sixty-five years of age**, whichever is earlier, without any provision for extension"

First Mini-TIDEL Park

- TN Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** inaugurated **Tamil Nadu's First Mini-TIDEL Park in Villupuram**.
- It covers an area of **63,000 square feet** on a five-acre land parcel at **Thiruchitrabalam** in **Vanur taluk**.
- **Mini-TIDEL Parks** are being established in **Tier II and Tier III towns** like **Thanjavur, Salem, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Karaikudi, Namakkal, Tiruppur, and Udthagamandalam**.

Maghizhchi Programme

- **Maghizhchi Programme** was launched recently by the **Director General of Police Shankar Jiwal in Madurai**.
- It is a **mental well-being programme** for police personnel and their families.
- The programme aims at providing treatment to police personnel who were addicted to alcohol and suffered from mental depression.

Sale of cotton candy banned

- Sale of cotton candy banned in Tamil Nadu after samples reveal presence of industrial dye
- **Rhodamine-B**.
- It was found that **Rhodamine-B** was used as a **colouring agent in cotton candies**.

Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** unveiled the **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024** recently.
- **Vision** - To ensure social justice for all and provide women access to their rightful entitlements.
- **Objective**
 - To establish a gender sensitive education system and reduce the dropout rate among girls.
 - To improve health and nutrition status of adolescent girls and women.
 - To increasing their participation in the workplace.

- To promote digital literacy to bridge the digital gender gap.
 - To support women for remunerative placements.
 - To encourage participation of women in politics.
- A **high-level women empowerment committee** headed by the **Chief Secretary** shall meet once in six months to review the implementation of the policy.
 - The policy is valid for 10 years from the date of its notification or till a new policy is formulated.

Extension of Vidiyal Payanam

- The **Free Bus Travel Scheme** for women in Tamil Nadu famously known as "**Vidiyal Payanam**" was extended recently.
- The extension of the scheme in the **Ghats section** was launched in **Udhagamandalam**.
- It would be implemented in other hilly areas later.

Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority

- The Bill to establish **Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA)** was passed in the ongoing Budget session.
- It is a **statutory body** to implement **road infrastructure projects** in Tamil Nadu.
- TNSHA will be formed on the lines of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to **maintain and manage roads as per global standards**.

Umagine 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **two-day conference - Umagine TN 2024** in Chennai.
- The conference was hosted by the **Tamil Nadu government's IT and Digital Services Department**.

Report on Keeladi excavation

- The Centre told the **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** that the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** will publish the report on the first two phases of Keeladi archaeological excavations in **Sivaganga district**.
- **Mr. Ramakrishna** had led the **first two phases** of the excavations in Keeladi between 2014 and 2016.
- There were no significant findings in Phase III of the excavations.
- The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** carried out the excavations from the **fourth phase** and so far **nine phases** had been completed.

TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

- Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the State Budget for 2024-25.
- Theme: 'Crossing obstacles and marching towards growth'
- Grand 7 Tamil dreams mentioned which includes,
 - Social Justice
 - Welfare of the Marginalized
 - Transforming Tamil youth as global achievers
 - Knowledge based economy
 - Equality focussed on welfare of women
 - Green Growth and Sustainable future
 - Tamil Language and culture.
- For 2024-25, the State has estimated its capital expenditure to be ₹47,681 crore, which is a growth of 12.11% over the revised estimates 2023-24.
- Top Three Sectoral Allocation
 - Education Department – 52,254 crores
 - Urban Development – 41,733 crores
 - Rural Development – 27,922 crores.

Key Highlights

Development of Tamil language

- Translation of Twin Epics
- Tharani Engum Tamil
Translated Tamil books will be available in world's top 100 universities and libraries.
- Kani Tamil 24
Fund for Startups for developing new technologies in Tamil Translation.
- Digitization of rare books and documents in Tamil Language.
- Ethnographic documentation of tribal linguistic resources.
- Culture
 - Open-air museum at the Keeladi excavation site.

- Excavation at 8 locations

- Keeladi - Sivaganga
- Vembakottai - Virudhunagar
- Porpanai Kottai - Pudukkottai
- Keezhamandi - Tiruvannamalai district.
- Thirumalapuram - Tenkasi
- Kongalnagaram – Tiruppur
- Marungur - Cuddalore
- Chennanur - Krishnagiri

▪ Excavation in Other States

- Muziris – Kerala
- Palur - Odisha
- Vengi - Andhra Pradesh
- Muski - Karnataka

▪ Deep sea excavations

- Korkai and Alagankulam

Rural development

▪ Kalaingarinar Kanavu Illam Scheme

- Aim - To create a 'hut-free Tamil Nadu' by 2030
- Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRRIS)
- Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam -II (AGAMT-II)
- 2000 New Overhead Water tanks.
- Initiative to restore 5000 water bodies.

Poverty Eradication

▪ Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme

- Aim - To bring around five lakh of the poorest families out of poverty within two years.

Municipal administration and water supply department

- Singara Chennai 2.0

- Chennai Theevu Thidal Development Scheme
- Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam.

▪ Rivers Restoration Project

- Cauvery - Erode, Trichy
- Noyal - Coimbatore, Tirupur
- Vaigai - Madurai
- Porunai - Paddy

▪ Urban Green Project

- Sea Water Desalination Plant - Nemmeli

Women Welfare

- Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.
- Vidiyal Payanam Thittam - Rs 3,050 crore has been provided as subsidy for this scheme.
- Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Puthumai Penn Thittam would be extended to girl students in Tamil medium government-aided schools as well from the next academic year.
- Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme 30,992 schools - 15 lakh people
- Thozhi - Women Hostels. Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai

Vulnerabile Sections

▪ Transgender Welfare

- The Transgender Welfare Board - ₹2 crore allotted for free educational expenses, including tuition and hostel fees of transgender students in pursuing higher education

▪ Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development

- Poonjolai - Model Home for Children Coimbatore

▪ 'Tholkudi' scheme

- Aim - To upgrade the amenities in tribal habitations and improve the living standards of tribals.

School Education

- Prof. Anbazhagan School Development Scheme

- 15,000 Smart Classrooms
- 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme

Higher Education

- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme.
- Upgrading 45 Polytechnic Colleges to Industry 4.0 Standards.
- Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Library & Science Centre - Coimbatore.
- Naan Mudhalvan Scheme - 28 lakh people benefittedx
 - Free training programme under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme for six months to prepare for Central Government Jobs
 - Tamizh Pudhalvan Scheme
 - Aim - To provide a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to boys who have studied in government schools from Classes VI to XII.

Sports

- Four olympic academies - Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Nilgiris.
- Chief Minister Youth Festival
- India's first Tamil Nadu Olympic Water Sports Academy - Ramanathapuram.
- Six sports centres exclusively for para - sportspersons will be set up.

Labor welfare

- 10 New Government Industrial Training Institutes
- Centres of Excellence

Medicine and population well-being

- Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam
- Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kaakum 48
- Cancer Management Mission
- Centre of Excellence for persons with autism spectrum disorder.

Industrial Development

- SIPCOT Park - Thanjavur

- **New Space Industrial and Propellant Park - Thoothukudi**
 - **10 mini-textile parks - Erode, Karur and Virudhunagar**
 - Neo TIDEL park at 5 locations.
 - **IT Park - Coimbatore**
- Environment**
- **TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)**
 - Aim - To restore coastal resources spanning 1,076 km across 14 districts.
 - **Development of beaches in Tamil Nadu - Blue Flag Beach Certification.**
 - Marina - Chennai
 - Ariyaman - Ramanathapuram
 - Kayalpattinam - Thoothukudi
 - Kodavilai - Tirunelveli
 - Kameswaram - Nagapattinam
 - Kattumavadi - Pudukottai
 - Silver beach - Cuddalore
 - Marakkanam - Villupuram
- Knowledge Based Economy**
- **Kalaigarnar international convention centre- Muttukkadu, Chennai**
 - Global Start-up Summit - To be held for the first time in Chennai.
 - **Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission - Under State Chief Minister.**
 - Free Wi-Fi will be provided at 1,000 prime locations including Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi and Salem.

AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2024 - 25

AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2024 - 25

- **Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare MRK. Panneerselvam** recently presented the **4th Exclusive Agriculture Budget for 2024-25** at the Legislative Assembly.
- A total sum of ₹42,281 crore has been allocated for agriculture and related departments during 2024-25.
- **Agriculture Budget** was first presented by the **Tamil Nadu Government in 2021-22.**
- **One model Organic Farm**
 - Aim - To promote the concept of Organic Farming.
- **Sustainable Green Cover Mission - Under the scheme 1.96 crore tree saplings were distributed to 72,597 farmers at a cost of Rs.24.85 crore.**
- **'Honey Production Hub'** will be established in Kanyakumari district with a budget of Rs.3.60 crore.
- **100 Uzhavar Angadis** will be established in urban areas along the lines of Uzhavar Sandhais at an outlay of Rs. 5 crore.
- The **Kalaigarnar All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme.**
 - **Aim - To transform every village into a model of self-sufficiency.**

Key Highlights

- **Chief Minister's Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaathu Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaappom Scheme (CM MK MKS).**
 - **Aim - To improve soil quality, and move towards sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of society.**
 - It will be implemented from the year 2024-2025 for which Rs.206 crore will be allocated.
- **Pulses Development Scheme**
 - To attain self sufficiency in pulses, the scheme will be implemented during 2024-2025 in an area of 4.75 lakh acres at an outlay of Rs.40.27 crore

▪ Edible Oilseeds Production Enhancement Scheme

- It will be implemented in all the districts of Tamil Nadu covering an area of 2.50 lakh acre at an outlay of Rs.45 crore.

▪ Scheme for Incentivising Enhanced Crop Productivity

- **Aim** - To enhance the productivity of food grains, coconut, sugarcane, cotton, and sunflower, to position Tamil Nadu as one of the top three states in terms of productivity.

▪ One Village One Crop - Demonstration

- It will be introduced in 15,280 revenue villages to catapult production in rural areas.

▪ Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

- It will be implemented for five years from 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 in the two millet special zones.

▪ Village Agriculture Development Group

- Under the scheme, village development groups will be formed to offer training within the village panchayats.

▪ Cotton Cultivation Mission

- To enhance the income of cotton farmers.

▪ Special Scheme for Mukkani Development

- **Aim** - To boost the cultivation of mango, jackfruit, and banana in the State during 2024-25.

▪ Establishment of New State Horticulture Farm and Parks

- **Mullai Garden** - Velimalai, Kanyakumari.
- **Marutham Park** - Thirumalai Samuthiram
- **Sun Garden** - Kanyakumari
- **Hibiscus Nursery Garden** - Attur, Chengalpattu
- **State Horticulture Farm** - Naduvakurichi
- **Jackfruit Value Addition Centre** - Panruti, Cuddalore District.

• Technology cum Market Promotion Centre - Perambalur.

▪ GI Tags

- In 2024-2025, Geographical Indication tag will be obtained for the following 10 Agricultural Products at the cost of Rs.30 lakh.

- Sathayamangalam Red Banana (Erode)
- Kolli Hills Pepper (Namakkal)
- Meenambur Seeraga Samba (Ranipet)
- Ayyampalayam Nettai Thennai (Dindigul)
- Urigam Puli (Krishnagiri)
- Bhuvanagiri Mithi Pagarkai (Cuddalore)
- Sencholam (Salem, Karur)
- Tirunelveli senna Leaf (Tirunelveli)
- Odaipatti Seedless Grapes (Theni)
- Gloriosa Superba (Senkanthal seed-Karur, Dindigul, Tiruppur)

- The name of **Department of Seed Certification and Organic Certification** in Tamil i.e., விதச்சான்று மற்றும் அங்ககச் சான்றுத்துறை will be renamed as விதச்சான்றளிப்பு மற்றும் உயிர்மச் சான்றளிப்புத்துறை".

- Research programmes to develop **new varieties in tuberose, chrysanthemum and rose** with improved productivity and profitability through new genetical methods will be carried out.

▪ Rural Development

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

▪ Revenue and Disaster Management

- The **Catalytic Assistance for Drought Mitigation programme** will be implemented from 2024-2025 in 110

Villages of 55 Blocks in seven districts namely Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi at an estimated cost of Rs.110.59 crore.

• **“Digital Azmoish (Digital Crop Survey)**

- i. **Aim** - To enumerate crops cultivated in Agricultural lands.

- ii. By using the data captured in Digital Azmoish, e-Adangal will be issued online to the farmers from the year 2024-2025 onwards.

▪ **Development of Palm Products**

- **Palmyra Development Mission** - The Government has been implementing the Palm Development Mission for the last three years to increase the number of palm trees.

