

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**MARCH 2025**



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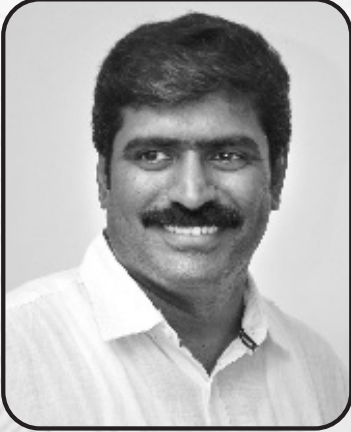
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# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

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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.

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 !

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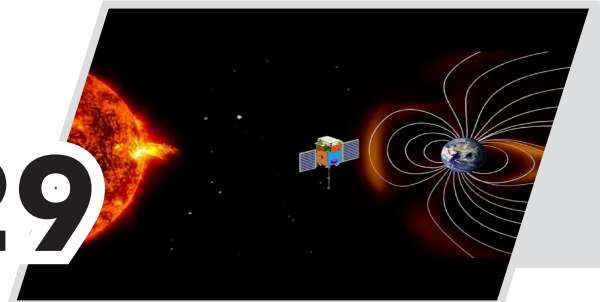
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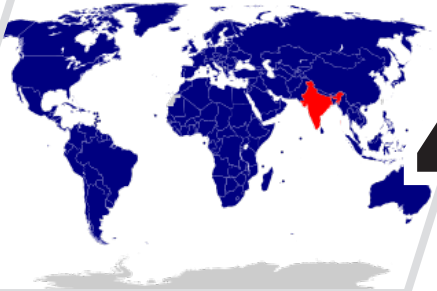
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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>March 4</b>	<b>54th Anniversary of National Safety Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ It is celebrated every year on March 4.</li><li>▪ <b>Theme</b> - Safety &amp; Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat.</li><li>▪ National Safety Day was first observed in 1972 to mark the foundation day of the National Safety Council of India (NSC), which was established in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.</li><li>▪ The objective was to raise awareness about industrial safety and reduce accidents in factories, construction sites, and other hazardous workplaces.</li></ul>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Observed on March 8</li><li>▪ <b>Theme for IWD</b> - "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"</li><li>▪ President of India, inaugurated a National Conference on the theme 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat' in New Delhi , celebrating the completion of 50 years of International Women's Day</li><li>▪ This conference is being organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.</li></ul>

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>March 13</b>	<b>World Kidney Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observed annually on March 13.</li> <li>Theme for 2025: "Are Your Kidneys Healthy?"</li> <li>Climate change, extreme temperatures, air pollution, and many other factors can cause kidney damage even in healthy individuals.</li> <li>Often, kidney failure is detected at a late stage, necessitating dialysis treatment or organ transplantation.</li> <li>In Tamil Nadu, 18% of people are diabetic patients and 25% suffer from high blood pressure.</li> </ul>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Pi Day - Celebrating the Infinity Beauty of Mathematics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>International Day of Mathematics, or Pi Day</b>, is celebrated on March 14 every year to recognize the mathematical constant, Pi (<math>\pi</math>), which is approximately 3.14159</li> <li>The theme of International Day of Mathematics 2024 is 'Playing with Math'.</li> <li>UNESCO marked Pi Day as the 'International Day of Mathematics' during its general conference in 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>World Consumer Rights Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is observed annually on <b>March 15</b> to promote consumer rights and ensure that they are upheld globally.</li> <li><b>Theme</b> - 'A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles.'</li> <li><b>World Consumer Rights Day</b> was first observed in 1983 to recognize and strengthen the importance of consumer rights worldwide.</li> </ul>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>World Sparrow Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Sparrow Day, celebrated on 20th March, raises awareness about the declining sparrow population and emphasizes the need to preserve these vital birds for ecological balance.</li> <li>It was initiated by "Nature Forever" in 2010 (a bird conservation organization) and is celebrated in over 50 countries.</li> </ul>



Date	Day	Theme / Remark
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2025 Theme : 'A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers'</li> <li>▪ The House Sparrow is the state bird of Delhi and Bihar.</li> <li>▪ The House Sparrow - IUCN Red List - Least Concern.</li> </ul>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>World Forests Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>International Day of Forests</b>, also known as <b>World Forests Day (WFD)</b>, is celebrated each year on 21st March to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and the planet.</li> <li>▪ The theme for 2025 WFD is "<b>Forests and Food</b>".</li> <li>▪ The International Day of Forests evolved from the "World Forestry Day" established by the <b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b> in 1971.</li> <li>▪ It was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in <b>2012</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Martyrs day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Martyr's Day</b> also known as <b>Shaheed Diwas</b>, is a sacred occasion in India dedicated to honouring the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence and sovereignty.</li> <li>▪ This is the day when Bhagwat Singh, along with Raj guru and Sukhdev, was hanged by the British in 1931.</li> </ul>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>World TB Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24 March is observed as World TB Day to amplify the urgency of ending tuberculosis (TB), the world's deadliest infectious disease</li> <li>▪ The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.</li> <li>▪ Theme "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver"</li> </ul>

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### T-72 Tank Engines from Russia

- The Ministry of Defense signed a contract worth Rs. 2,156 crore with Russia's Rosoboron export to purchase engines for T-72 tanks.
- This promotes the 'Make in India' initiative.

### India second-largest arms importer after Ukraine in 2020-24

- The data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- Ukraine became the world's largest arms importer in 2020-24 due to the ongoing war,
- India ranked second, despite a 9.3% decline in imports from 2015-19.
- Russia remained India's largest supplier, but its share dropped to 36% from 55% in 2015-19 and 72% in 2010-14.
- India also became the biggest arms importer from France (28%), almost twice the share that went to all European nations combined (15%).
- Globally, U.S. arms exports rose to 43%, while Russia's fell by 64%, making it the third-largest exporter after France (9.6%).

### Exercise Khanjar-XII

- **12th edition** of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar-XII
- It is a bilateral military exercise focusing on counter-terrorism and special forces training.
- **Date & Location:** 10-23 March 2025, Kyrgyzstan
- The Indian contingent is represented by troops from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the Kyrgyzstan contingent is represented by Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade.

### Astra MK- III

- India's latest and most advanced air-to-air missile, the Astra MK-III, has now been officially renamed as Gandiva.

- Astra MK-III (Gandiva) is India's most advanced beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile, developed by DRDO.
- It has an unmatched range of 340 km, exceeding China's PL-15 (300 km) and the U.S. AIM-174 (240 km).

### Rs. 2,906 Crore Contract with 'BEL'

- An agreement to procure portable radars (Ashwini) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) was signed in the presence of the Defense Secretary.

### Exercise Bongosagar 2025

- It is a naval exercise between India and Bangladesh
- INS Ranvir from the Indian Navy and BNS Abu Ubaidah from the Bangladesh Navy are participating in the exercise.
- It aims to Strengthening maritime security, tactical planning, and operational coordination.

### Exercise- VARUNA 2025

- The Indian and French Navies are gearing up for the 23rd edition of their bilateral naval exercise, VARUNA 2025.
- It is the bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France.
- The Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, and the French aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle.
- Initiated in 1993, the exercise was christened 'Varuna' in 2001 and has become a hallmark of the India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

### Exercise Sea Dragon 2025

- India successfully concluded participation in Sea Dragon 2025, a two-week multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise.



- The Sea Dragon exercise is a multinational anti-submarine warfare drill conducted annually to strengthen maritime security and cooperation among allied nations in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Host Nation:** United States Navy's 7th Fleet hosted the exercise.
- **Nations Involved:** India (since 2021), Australia, Japan, South Korea, United States.
- Tavasya is expected to be the last warship built under foreign license, as India transitions to indigenous warship construction.

### AIKEYME & IOS Sagar

#### ▪ AIKEYME exercises

- Africa India Key Maritime Engagement
- A large-scale multinational naval exercise with 10 African countries.

#### ▪ IOS Sagar (Indian Ocean Ship Sagar)

- Another cooperation initiative with Africa.
- Deployment of **INS Sunayna** with a combined crew of **Indian and 44 African personnel**.
- It is being deployed to the Southwest IOR with a combined crew of India and nine Friendly Foreign Countries (FFC) (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, South Africa ).
- The initiatives of IOS Sagar and AIKEYME are aimed at consolidating Indian Navy's stature as the '**Preferred Security Partner**' and '**First Responder**' in Indian Ocean Region.

### Exercise 'Bongosagar 2025'

- It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh.
- It is commenced in the year 2019, Bongosagar 2025 is the fifth edition of the exercise.
- The objective is to develop high-level interoperability and operational expertise through a broad spectrum of maritime operations.
- The exercise saw participation of INS Ranvir from the Indian Navy and BNS Abu Ubaidah from Bangladesh Navy.

### Tavasya

- 'Tavasya', the last of the four Krivak-class stealth frigates, was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on March 22, 2025.
- The launch marks a milestone in India's naval self-reliance and defence production capabilities.
- India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in October 2016 for four additional Krivak-class stealth frigates.
- **Under the agreement:**
  - Two ships were imported directly from Russia.
  - Two ships were manufactured at Goa Shipyard under technology transfer.

### VL-SRSAM

- India successfully flight tested the Vertically Launched Short Range Surface To Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from a defence test facility off the Odisha coast recently.
- It is an indigenously developed Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SRSAM).
- It is developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The missile is now being developed for use by the Indian Air Force to protect its air bases.
- It comes as an integrated missile and **Weapon Control System (WCS)** with a capability to hold multiple missiles in a twin quad-pack canister configuration.

## 1.3 WORLD ORGANISATIONS – PACTS AND SUMMITS

### Global Energy Review (GRE) 2024

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the Global Energy Review (GRE) 2024, analyzing trends in energy demand, supply, technology, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Global Energy Demand Growth: Increased by 2.2%, with emerging economies contributing 80% of the rise.
- Rise of Renewables & Natural Gas: Renewables accounted for 38% of growth, adding a record 700 GW. China (340 GW solar, 80 GW wind) and India (30 GW solar) were key contributors.

### About International Energy Agency (IEA):

- Established: 1974 by OECD nations (due to 1973-74 oil crisis).
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Mandate:** Ensures energy security, economic development and global engagement through analysis, data, and policy recommendations.
- **Members:** 31 member countries, 13 association countries (including India), and 4 accession countries. Only OECD members can become IEA members.
- **Major Reports:** World Energy Outlook reports, India Energy Outlook Report, World Energy Investment Report.

## 1.4 PLACES IN NEWS

### Jalanatheswarar Temple

- The Jalanatheswarar Temple in Thakkolam, Tamil Nadu, a 6th-century Pallava-era structure, is in poor condition

- To honor him, the CISF renamed its RTC in Arakkonam as Rajaditya Chola RTC in March 2025.

### About the Jalanatheswarar Temple

- Also known as **Thiruvoral**- ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, situated in Thakkolam village of Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu.
- Situated on the banks of Kosasthalai river
- Original temple complex was constructed by Pallavas (6th century), later expanded by Cholas.
- The **Battle of Thakkolam (949 CE)** was significant, where Chola Prince Rajaditya was killed by the Rashtrakutas.

- Thakkolam's inscriptions played a crucial role in dating the Chola dynasty, helping historians determine **Aditya I's reign (870-907 CE)** and **Vijayalaya Chola's accession before 850 CE**.

### Menhir and Megalithic Burial Sites

- The Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs - it is a ancient standing stones in Telangana dating back around 3,500 to 4,000 years, have been included in India's tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The site is one of the largest megalithic burial grounds in South India.

### About Menhirs

- Menhirs are large, upright standing stones, often uncarved, placed individually or in groups.
- **Purpose:** Used for burial, religious, astronomical, or territorial purposes.
- **Historical Significance:** Dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, menhirs are among the earliest forms of human monumental architecture.

### About Megalithic Burial Sites

- A megalith is a large stone used in the construction of a monument or structure, either independently or in combination with other stones.
- The tradition of constructing such monuments began primarily during the Neolithic Age and continued through the Chalcolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages.

### Vikramshila University

- **Context :** After Nalanda University, another ancient centre of learning in Bihar Vikramshila University is set for revival.
- **Location:** Vikramshila University was situated in Bhagalpur, Bihar, along the banks of the river Ganges, making it a prominent historical site in eastern India.
- **Founder:** The university was established by King Dharmapala of the Pala Dynasty during the late 8th to early 9th century AD, as a response to the perceived decline in educational standards at Nalanda University.

- Vikramshila University emerged as a leading hub for Tantric Buddhism and Vajrayana Buddhism, playing a pivotal role in the spread of these traditions.

### Bodh Gaya

- Bodh Gaya is witnessing widespread protests by Buddhist groups demanding full control of the Mahabodhi Temple, objecting to Hindu participation in the temple's administration under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949.

#### Location:

- Situated in Gaya district, Bihar, India, near the Falgu River.
- One of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites (alongside Lumbini, Sarnath, and Kushinagar).
- **6th century BCE:** Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree, becoming Buddha.
- **3rd century BCE:** Ashoka constructed a diamond throne (Vajrasana) and a shrine.

- **12th century CE:** Declined due to Islamic invasions but revived in the 19th century under British archaeologists.
- Declared a World Heritage Site in 2002 for its outstanding universal value.

#### Associated Kings:

- Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE): Built the first temple at the site.
- King Harshavardhana (7th century CE): Expanded Buddhist structures.
- **British Colonial Era (19th century):** Restored the temple under Alexander Cunningham.

## 1.5 AWARDS AND HONORS

### 'Tamil Chemmal' Award

- Tamil Development and Information Department Minister M.P. Saminathan presented the Tamil Chemmal Award to 38 people who have made outstanding contributions to Tamil development.
- The Tamil Nadu government gives various awards and honors to individuals and organizations serving the Tamil language, celebrating their service to Tamil.
- The 'Tamil Chemmal Award' is given annually to Tamil scholars who have served the Tamil department at the district level.
- Award recipients were given a check for Rs.25,000 each and a certificate.

### 73 People Receive Medals in Chennai Police Department; Ministry of Home Affairs

- The Ministry of Home Affairs presents medals for Excellence in Service (Ati Utkrisht Seva Padak) and Distinguished Service Medal (Utkrisht Seva Padak) to encourage police personnel and central security forces across India who perform excellently. These have been awarded since 2018.
- The Medal for Excellence in Service is given to police officers who have served for more than 25 years without any punishments, and the Distinguished Service Medal is given to police officers who have served for more than 15 years without any punishments.
- 73 people serving in the Chennai Metropolitan Police Department were announced as recipients for the years 2020-2021.

### Kalai Chemmal Award

- The government's Department of Arts and Culture presents the "Kalai Chemmal" award every year to talented artists in various categories including traditional and modern painting, sculpture, etc.
- This award includes a copper plate, a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, and a certificate of appreciation.
- Six artists have been selected for the Kalai Chemmal Award for the year 2024-25:  
Traditional Painting: A. Manivelu, Traditional Sculpture: V. Balachandar, K. Kanniyappan, Modern Painting: K. Muralidharan, A. Selvaraj, Modern Sculpture: N. Raghavan.

### Kalaighar Ezhudhukol Award

- The Chief Minister presented the 2023 award to journalists Nakkheeran R. Gopal and Sugitha Sarangaraj.
- This award includes a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs each along with a certificate of appreciation.
- The Tamil Nadu government has been presenting the Kalaighar Ezhudhukol Award since 2021.

### Highest Award from Barbados to Prime Minister Modi

- Prime Minister Modi has been honored with Barbados' highest national award in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since diplomatic relations began in 1966, India and Barbados have developed strong cooperation through continuous engagement and development efforts.

## Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi Award for 2024 has been announced for books selected from 21 languages.
- Professor P. Vimala has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award for translating Malayalam writer Nalini Jameela's book 'Ente Aankal' (My Men) into Tamil under the title 'Enadu Aangal'.
- This book discusses men's approaches toward women.
- The awardee will receive a prize money of Rs. 50,000 and a copper plaque.

## About Sahitya Akademi

- Sahitya Akademi Awards have been given in 23 languages under the Ministry of Culture (since 1985).

## Service Awards for Women's Advancement

- The Avvaiyar Award for 2025 was presented to Dr. Yasodha Shanmugasundaram, former Vice-Chancellor of Mother Teresa Women's University. She was awarded a prize of Rs.1.50 lakh.
- The State Award for the Advancement of Girl Children was presented to K. Sowmiya from Kattumannarkoil, Cuddalore district. She was awarded a check for Rs.1 lakh.
- State Girl Child Protection Day Awards and medals were presented to Alagu Meena, Kanniyakumari District Collector, and Kalaichelvi Mohan, Kanchipuram District Collector.

## Ramsar Award for Wetland Wise Use

- Jayshree Vencatesan (co-founder of Care Earth Trust) is the first Indian to receive the Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use'.

- The Ramsar Awards recognize individuals and organizations contributing to sustainable wetland management, with categories including wise use, innovation, and policy influence.

- Jayshree Vencatesan's Contributions: She has worked extensively on Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai, documenting its 337+ species of flora and fauna.

## Mauritius' Highest Award

- The Prime Minister of Mauritius presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the highest award, "The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean."
- He earned the distinction of being the first Indian leader to receive this award, and it marks the 21st highest award received by Prime Minister Modi from foreign countries.
- He is the 5th foreign leader to receive this award.

## "Velaan Vendhar" Award for Natural Farmer

- Puliyangudi Anthonisamy, a pioneering natural farmer, has been honored with the "Velaan Vendhar" award by Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- He has achieved success in farming by using natural materials such as livestock waste.
- He introduced methods incorporating the five elements in natural farming, helping to achieve 20% higher yields.
- He played a significant role in establishing Puliyangudi in Tenkasi district as the "Lemon City of Asia".

### **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has won the Digital Transformation Award 2025**

- It was presented by Central Banking, London.
- The Digital Transformation Award recognizes central banks and financial institutions for excellence in digital innovation and technology-driven governance.
- RBI won for its digital initiatives – ‘Saarathi’ and ‘Pravaah’.
- Saarathi Initiative: (launched in 2023)
- An internal workflow digitization system for RBI employees.
- **Pravaah Initiative:** (launched in 2024)

- A digital regulatory application platform for external users submitting documents to RBI.
- Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla (88) was selected for the 59th Jnanpith Award on Saturday.
- With this, he has earned the distinction of being the first person from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award, which is the highest literary award in India.
- Vinod Kumar Shukla is the **12th Hindi writer** to receive this award.
- In 1999, Vinod Kumar Shukla received the **Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award**.

## **1.6 INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS**

- India Donates Emergency Medical Drugs to Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka is experiencing a shortage of Furosemide injections needed for emergency treatments such as heart failure, high blood pressure, and kidney disorders.
- **Donation:** 50,000 Furosemide injections.

## **1.7 APPOINTMENTS - WHO IS WHO**

### **Appointment of South Regional Head of Indian Meteorological Department**

- P. Amudha has been appointed as the South Regional Head of the Indian Meteorological Department
- She has earned a doctoral degree by analyzing Northeast monsoon data. She has served in various responsibilities at the Indian Meteorological Center for the past 34 years since joining in 1991.
- She received the prestigious Professor Vilho Vaisala Award in 2016, presented by the World Meteorological Organization. She is the first scientist to receive this award.

### **Appointment of Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**

- Dr. Mayank Sharma took charge as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), marking a significant milestone in the administration of India's defence financial management.
- A distinguished 1989-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), Dr. Sharma has dedicated over three decades to serving the Government of India in various key roles.

### **Appointment of Managing Director of Women's Development Corporation**

- Shreya P. Singh has been appointed as



the Managing Director of the Women's Development Corporation.

### **About Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation**

- It was established by the Tamil Nadu Government in 1983 with the aim of improving the status of women through education, employment, economic development, and self-confidence.

- **Headquarters:** Chennai

### **Four key programs operating under this organization**

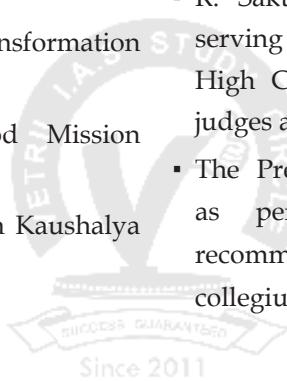
- Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)
- National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)
- Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM)
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

### **Supreme Court Judge Appointment**

- Justice Jayamalya Bagchi of the Kolkata High Court, West Bengal, has been appointed as a Supreme Court judge.
- The appointment was recommended by a 5-member collegium headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna.
- With this appointment, the number of Supreme Court judges will increase to 33. The authorized number of judge positions in the Supreme Court is 34.

### **Two Permanent Judges Take Oath at Chennai High Court**

- R. Sakthivel and P. Dhanapal, who were serving as additional judges at the Chennai High Court, were appointed as permanent judges and took oath yesterday.
- The President approved their appointment as permanent judges based on the recommendation made by the Supreme Court collegium to the central government.



# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

### HC Ruling on Minority Institutions & Reservation Records

- Key Ruling by Madurai Bench of Madras High Court
- State Minorities Commission cannot demand records from minority educational institutions to verify compliance with reservation rules.
- The minority educational institutions under Article 30(1) are exempted from the purview of Article 15(5) of the Constitution

### Constitutional References & Observations

- 93rd Constitutional Amendment (2005):
- Allows the State to make special provisions for the advancement of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pertaining to their admission to educational institutions.
- **Article 15 - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth**
- Article 15 (5) - Nothing in this article or in sub-clause (g) of clause (1) of article 19 shall prevent the State from making any special provision, by law, for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in so far as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or

unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30.

### SC Examines Timeline for Speaker's Decision on Defections

- Supreme Court questions whether it can set a deadline for Speakers to decide disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law).
- Currently, the SC only urges Speakers to decide within a "reasonable time", without defining it.

### 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- The Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, also known as the Anti-Defection Law, was added by the 52nd Amendment in 1985.
- It lays down the provisions related to disqualification of members of Parliament (MPs) and State Legislatures on grounds of defection.

### Speaker's Role in Defection

- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to 'Judicial review'.
- However, the law does not provide a timeframe within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

## Judicial Transfers

- The Supreme Court (SC) Collegium has recommended the transfer of Delhi High Court Judge (Justice Yashwant Varma) to the Allahabad High Court.

## Process of Judicial Transfers in India

- Constitutional Provision: Article 222 of Indian Constitution empowers the President, based on the recommendation of the CJI, to transfer a judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to another.
- Consent of the judge is not required, whether it is the first or a subsequent transfer.
- Role of the CJI and the Collegium: The CJI initiates the transfer proposal and his opinion is determinative.
  - For transferring a Judge (not Chief Justice), the CJI consults the Chief Justice of the transferring High Court and the receiving High Court and considers input from one or more SC judges who know the concerned judge's performance.
  - For transferring a Chief Justice, the proposal is reviewed by the CJI along with the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, collectively forming the Collegium.
  - In making the final decision, the Collegium also considers personal aspects of the judge, like health conditions, and location preferences.

## Indian Citizenship for Sri Lankan Refugee Couple's Daughter

- The Chennai High Court has ordered the central government to consider granting Indian citizenship to a girl born to a Sri Lankan Tamil refugee couple who came to Tamil Nadu.

- The central government stated that only children born in India after July 1, 1987, with at least one Indian parent are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship.
- The petitioner was not only born in India and married to an Indian but is also the mother of a 9-year-old Indian child. Having lived in Tamil Nadu with her family for 37 years, it is meaningless for officials to ask her and her parents to go to Sri Lanka to obtain documents.
- Therefore, the Ministry of Home Affairs should allow the petitioner to apply for Indian citizenship online. The central government should legally consider that application and make an appropriate decision.
- Until then, the central government has been ordered not to deport the petitioner and her parents from India, and the case has been closed.

## Non Resident Indian

- An Indian citizen who is residing outside India and holds an Indian passport.

## Person of Indian Origin

- A person whose any ancestors was an Indian nationals and who is presently holding another country's citizenship. (other than Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan, China and Nepal). The PIO scheme was rescinded w.e.f. 09-01-2015

## Overseas Citizen of India Card Holder

- It is an immigration status permitting a foreign citizen of Indian origin to live and work in the Republic of India indefinitely. (Except the citizen of Pakistan and Bangladesh). There are no voting rights for an OCI card holder.

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### OCI Cards to Mauritius Officials

- Prime Minister Modi honored four people with Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards: Mauritius President Prithvirajsing Roopun and his wife, and Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and his wife.
- OCI cardholders are granted rights to live, work, and study in India without time limitations.
- Travel to India can be done without a visa, and various concessions are provided.
- There are 22,188 Indians and 13,198 OCI cardholders in Mauritius.

### About OCI Cards

- The Indian government introduced the 'Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)' scheme in 2005 under the Citizenship Act.
- However, those with Pakistani or Bangladeshi citizenship cannot apply for OCI.
- OCI cardholders do not have voting rights.

### Introduction of Immigration and Foreign Visitors Regulation Bill

- A bill to regulate immigration, foreign visitors' entry to India, stay, and return to their home countries was introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- This bill was introduced by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.
- According to current laws, the Bureau of Immigration, state governments, and Union Territories are involved in foreigners' stay, tourism, and return to their home countries.
- Under the new bill, all foreign arrivals, stays, and departures will be under central government control.

### Cybercriminals Arrested Through 'Pratibimb' Software

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C) has reported to Parliament that 6,046 cybercriminals have been arrested so far through the 'Pratibimb' Geographic Information System (GIS) software.
- 'Samanvaya' software has been introduced to create coordination between police and law enforcement agencies to share and analyze data about cybercriminals.
- Through this, states can share analytical data about cybercriminals' contacts.
- I4C has reported that 36,296 requests were made, 17,185 website links were blocked, and 6,046 criminals were arrested through this system.

### 15 Major Infrastructure Projects in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; National Project Monitoring Committee

- Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti (National Project Monitoring Committee) monitors key projects.
- 25 issues related to 15 major projects were examined, and decisions worth Rs. 10,396 crore were made.
- Specifically, studies were conducted on Labor Hospitals (ESIC) in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. It was decided to prioritize the implementation of these hospitals to provide special treatment and health benefits to workers.

- Additionally, the expansion of Reliance Jio's 5G and 4G services, solutions to wildlife issues, and improving service in challenging areas like Siachen were addressed.

### **The PM Gati Shakti**

- **Launched** : 2021
- Digital platform to integrate ministries like Railways and Roadways for coordinated infrastructure planning and execution.
- It brings together 44 Central Ministries and 36 States and Union Territories (UTs).

### **Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.**

- **Objective:** It aims to resolve grievances of global firms interested in investing by ensuring stability in operation in oil and gas exploration and production.
- **Key Change:** Delinks petroleum operations from mining operations.
- **Status:** Passed by Rajya Sabha in December 2024 and Lok Sabha in March 2025.
- **Decriminalization:** It Replaces criminal penalties of the original Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 with fines, adjudication, and appeal mechanisms.
- **Ensures Stability:** It Provides stable tenure for leases, making investment conditions predictable.
- **No Change in State Rights:** States will continue issuing petroleum leases and receiving royalties.
- India is the only country where petrol and diesel prices have dropped in the last three years. (because the government reduced central excise duty twice.)

### **Fast Track Special Courts Scheme**

- The extension of the **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme** till March 2026 aims to ensure speedy and time-bound justice in cases of rape and offences under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**
- The **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme** was initially launched for one year and later extended until March 2023. In 2023 further extended the Scheme for three more years, from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.
- In 2019, the Supreme Court ordered fast disposal of POCSO cases, prompting the launch of the FTSC Scheme on 2nd October, 2019.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the **Ministry of Law & Justice** that aims to establish FTSCs under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- The Centre contributes 60%, and States 40%, except for Northeastern, Sikkim, and hilly states, where it's 90:10.
- UTs with legislatures follow a 60:40 ratio, while those without legislature get full central funding.
- FTSCs boast a 96.28% disposal rate in 2024, and over 3 lakh cases have been disposed of collectively by FTSCs since its launch.
- Maharashtra and Punjab have high case disposal rates, while West Bengal has the lowest leading to disparities in justice delivery.

### **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)**

- The Union Home Ministry is reviewing AFSPA coverage in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal

Pradesh, and Assam after recent ethnic and law-and-order disturbances.

#### **About AFSPA**

- It is a law that empowers the armed forces to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”
- Enacted in 1958, it allows armed forces to act with special authority in regions with severe unrest.
- The Governor of a State, or the Central Government, can declare any area as ‘disturbed’.
- The notification is reviewed every six months, with the possibility of extension or withdrawal
- States Under AFSPA (As of February 2025): Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir

## **2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES**

### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**

- It has been implemented since 2006 and completed 20 years on February 2.
- MGNREGS is integrated with multiple Central and State schemes, such as:

#### **Central Schemes:**

- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin
- PM JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Swachh Bharat Mission

#### **State Schemes :**

- Mudhalvarin Grama Saalaigal Membattu Thittam
- Kalaignarin Kanavu Illam
- Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam
- Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission
- The scheme supports construction of compound walls, warehouses, anganwadi centers, and rural housing.

- Under- Ministry of Rural Development

### **'Jan Aushadhi Diwas' (People's Pharmacy Day)**

- The Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, with the aim of selling quality medicines at affordable prices to the public.
- March 7th is celebrated as "Jan Aushadhi Diwas" every year to promote generic medicines on behalf of the Central Government.
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras sell more than 2,000 types of medicines and about 300 types of surgical equipment. They are sold at 50 to 80 percent lower prices compared to branded medicines.
- So far, 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKS) have been opened throughout the country.

### **National Health Policy (NHP) target**

- **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR):** India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of 100 deaths per lakh live births.
- **Decline in MMR:** India saw an 83% decline in MMR (1990-2020), surpassing the global decline.



- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** India recorded a 69% reduction in IMR from 1990 to 2020, which is higher than the global decline of 55%.
- **Under-5 Mortality Rate:** India witnessed a 75% decline, compared to the global decline of 58%.
- **Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** has been dropped to 39.4 from 45.5 per one lakh live births during 2023-24.
- **The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** has been reduced from 8.2 per 1,000 live births to 7.7.
- **New Initiatives:** The Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM) Cubes are advanced mobile modular kits, designed to offer rapid, first-line medical care in the management of patients during first few hours following a disaster situation or public health emergencies.
- Over 1 million ASHAs operate across rural India, handling maternal health, disease prevention, sanitation, and health data collection.
- Their role in the COVID-19 pandemic earned them global recognition, including the WHO Global Health Leaders Award (2022).
- The ASHA scheme is presently in place in all states/UTs (except Goa).

### **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme.**

- **Context:** The government has introduced new features and expanded outreach efforts to improve the implementation of the (PM-SYM)
- Recent updates include an extended revival period, flexible exit provisions, and enhanced integration with the e-Shram portal.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme aimed at providing financial security to workers in the unorganised sector.
- Launched in the Interim Budget of 2019.
- Under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Eligibility:** Workers in the unorganised sector earning up to ₹15,000 per month.

### **Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme**

- It was launched in 2025 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
- This initiative aims to empower female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills, resources, and mentorship.
- Launched in the Interim Budget of 2019.
- Under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Eligibility:** Workers in the unorganised sector earning up to ₹15,000 per month.

### **ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists)**

- ASHAs were introduced in 2005 under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to bridge the gap between communities and health care system.
- It is a Centre launched National Rural Health Mission

### **Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat**

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat (MWFGP) initiative at a National Convention on March 5, 2025, in New Delhi.
- It is a gender-inclusive governance initiative designed to enhance women's participation, safety, and leadership at the grassroots level.

- Supported by State Institutes of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PRs) and international organizations like UNFPA.
- Key Features -One Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in each district across India.
- Stores will also sell ethnoveterinary medicines based on traditional knowledge.
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has compiled formulations for mastitis, FMD lesions, fever, worms, etc.

### Pashu Aushadhi Initiative

- A government initiative to set up Pashu Aushadhi stores across India for affordable generic veterinary medicines for livestock health.
- A centrally sponsored scheme aimed at improving livestock health through vaccination, disease control, and veterinary infrastructure enhancement.
- Aims to support farmers, animal husbandry workers, and dairy farmers.
- It is Under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Program (LHDCP), approved by the Union Cabinet.
- More than 10,300 Janaushadhi Kendras currently exist in India.
- The "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Launched in 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, in collaboration with Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings.
- The initiative aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the public through dedicated outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK).
- Stores will be run by cooperative societies and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying will release operational guidelines.

### Parvatmala Pariyojana

- It is a National Ropeways Development Programme aimed at boosting ropeway connectivity in hilly areas.
- Announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Implemented by MoRTH under the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML).
- **Aim** : To enhance connectivity in difficult terrains and reduce travel time in hilly areas, promote eco-friendly and cost-effective transport solutions, to boost tourism and local economy.
- Recently, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved two major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand under the Parvatmala Pariyojana, connecting Govindghat-Hemkund Sahib (12.4 km) and Sonprayag-Kedarnath (12.9 km).

### Problems in Conduct of Public Elections

- **'D' voters**
- Who : 'D' (Doubtful) voters are individuals whose Indian citizenship is under question, and they are barred from voting or contesting elections.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) introduced this category in 1997 in Assam to identify those who failed to prove their citizenship.
- The Citizenship Act, 1955, and the Citizenship Rules, 2003, do not define 'D' voters explicitly.

- They are not allowed to vote or contest elections until they get clearance from the Foreigners Tribunal (FT).

### **Modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme**

- Introduced by the Government of India to support Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs).
- Allows mills to conversion of their existing sugarcane-based ethanol plants into multi-feedstock facilities.
- The goal is to ensure continuous operation and improve productivity throughout the year.
- Enables the use of maize and damaged food grains (DFG) alongside sugarcane.
- **Scheme Benefits:**
- Provides interest subvention of 6% per annum or 50% of bank interest rate for five years.
- Ensures year-round production by allowing the use of alternative raw materials.
- Improves financial viability and operational efficiency of CSMs.

### **Ethanol Production in India:**

- Primarily dependent on sugarcane, which has a limited crushing season (4-5 months/year).
- The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme targets 20% ethanol blending by 2025.
- **Impact on Ethanol Production Targets:**
  - Increased ethanol production will aid in energy security and fuel diversification.

### **Mission Amrit Sarovar**

- The Indian Railways will dig ponds as part of the Union government's Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- It aims to address the critical issue of water scarcity in the country.
- Nodal ministry : Ministry of Rural Development

- It was launched in April 2022 with the ambitious goal of constructing or rejuvenating 75 ponds in each district of the country.
- Phase 2 of the mission was launched with a renewed focus on ensuring water availability, with community participation (Jan Bhagidaari) at its core.
- It aims to strengthen climate resilience, foster ecological balance, and deliver lasting benefits for future generations.

### **PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme**

- PM-YUVA 3.0 (Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors) launched on March , 2025 by the Ministry of Education.
- Aimed at mentoring young authors (below 30 years) to promote reading, writing, and book culture.
- Builds on the success of previous editions, which had participation in 22 Indian languages & English.
- Supports cultural and literary exchange under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Books will be published & translated into various Indian languages by National Book Trust (NBT).
- National Book Trust (NBT), under the Ministry of Education, is the implementing agency.
- Themes for PM-YUVA 3.0 - A total of 50 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted from 11 March 2025 – 10 April 2025 under three themes
- Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building (10 authors).
- Indian Knowledge System (20 authors).
- Makers of Modern India (1950-2025) (20 authors).



# 3. GEOGRAPHY

## 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

- Conservation of Lesser-Known Species in Tamil Nadu
- March – 3 - World Wildlife Day
- **Theme - 'Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet'**
- Tamil Nadu Forest Department has launched multiple conservation efforts for species like:
  - Slender Loris (India's first sanctuary was created for this species, located in Karur and Dindigul districts).
  - Dugong (a marine mammal - Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts/Palk Bay region).
  - Nilgiri Tahr (Tamil Nadu's state animal-Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, and Eravikulam National Park).
- **Grey Slender Loris & Pangolins in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**
- Research led by Keystone Foundation, involving indigenous communities like Urali and Sholiga tribes.
- Documented in Ozhudurukka Paradu Mekka – The Hidden Forest Creatures, highlighting threatened nocturnal mammals.

### Gangetic Dolphins

#### Context

- The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins, the only riverine dolphins in India, has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries.
- Acoustic hydrophone method used for the survey.

#### About Gangetic dolphins

- Scientific Name: Platanista gangetica
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered
- Habitat: Freshwater rivers – Ganga and its tributaries, Brahmaputra and its tributaries, Beas.
- Special Feature: Blind, uses echolocation for movement.
- National Aquatic Animal of India.
- Largest number found in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

#### Conservation Initiatives

- Project Dolphin (2020) – Part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

### Important Species & Conservation Efforts

- Eurasian Otter (Near Threatened – IUCN)
  - Found along the Tamirabharani River.
  - Plays a crucial role as a keystone species in maintaining ecosystem balance.
  - Research by ATREE (Agasthyamalai Community-Based Conservation Centre) highlights their presence.
- Freshwater Turtles of the Cauvery River
  - Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle (Pelochelys cantorii).
  - Leith's Softshell Turtle (Nilssononia leithii) – Endangered.

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 – Schedule I species (highest protection).
- Namami Gange Programme – River rejuvenation to protect dolphin habitat.
- Gangetic Dolphin Conservation Plan by Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- Under the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

### India's 58th Tiger Reserve

- Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh has been declared India's 58th Tiger Reserve and the 9th in the State.

### Two New Species Of Jumping Spiders

- The University of Kerala has reported the discovery of two new species of jumping spiders, *Epidelaxia falciformis* and *Epidelaxia palustris*.
- This marks the first record of the genus *Epidelaxia* in India.
- The spiders were found in the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala – Western Ghats) during expeditions in late 2022 and early 2023.
- These spiders thrive in the dense foliage of the Western Ghats.
- The scientist's work published in the February 2025 issue of *Zootaxa*, a peer-reviewed journal.
- Location: Situated in Shivpuri district, Chambal region, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger.
- To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments can forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA.
- Central Government via NTCA may also advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.
- Tiger Reserves are managed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

### Project Lion

- The central government has approved Rs.2,900 – crore 'Project Lion'
- The initiative aimed at the conservation and expansion of the Asiatic lion population in India
- No alternation of boundary can be done without the recommendation of National Board for Wild Life and without the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority.

### Dehing Patkai National Park

- The Asiatic lion is one of the most endangered large carnivores, with its only wild population residing in Gujarat's Gir Forest and surrounding landscapes with a census reporting 674 individuals in 2020 (29% increase from 2015).
- Recently, A camera trap in Dehing Patkai National Park recently captured a rare sighting of the Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), a species classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

### About The Dehing Patkai National Part

- IUCN Status : Vulnerable (reclassification of the Asiatic lion from endangered to vulnerable in 2024).
- It is located in Assam- known as the "Amazon of the East."
- It is India's largest stretch of lowland rainforest.



- Tribes - Assamese communities such as the Tai Phake, Khamyang, Khampti, Singpho, Nocte, Ahom, Kaibarta, Moran, and Motok,

### **New Plant Species Identified: Uniyala keralensis**

- It is a distinct species of the genus Uniyala.
- Location: Found in **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala.**
- **Distinct Features:** it is a small to large shrub growing up to one to three metres in height, with attractive light purple flowers; belongs to the Asteraceae family.
- **Endemic Region:** Exclusive to southern end of the Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot.
- **Published In:** Findings published in the journal Phytotaxa.
- Following the **IUCN Red List Criteria** (IUCN 2024), Uniyala keralensis is assessed as **Data Deficient (DD).**

### **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)**

- It is set to become a new sanctuary for rhinos from Nepal.
- This initiative could mark a major milestone in wildlife conservation, bolstering rhino population and biodiversity in northern India.
- It is situated in the Pilibhit district of **Uttar Pradesh**, forming part of the Terai Arc Landscape, in the upper Gangetic Plain Biogeographic Province.
- It lies along the **India-Nepal** border in the foothills of the Himalayas.

- The river Gomti originates from the PTR, which is also the catchment of several others like **Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot.**

### **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Pobitora is mainly famous for its great Indian One-horned rhinoceros.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is known for holding the highest density of Greater One Horned Rhinoceros in the country.
- it is located in the eastern region of Guwahati, Assam, was established in 1998.
- The Sanctuary consists of the Rajamayong Reserve Forest and Pobitora Reserve Forest.

### **Kanger Valley National Park (KVNP)**

- It has been recently included in the tentative list of Unesco world heritage sites under the 'Natural' category.
- **Location:** It is located in **Chhattisgarh** state.
- The National Park derives its name from the **Kanger River**, which flows centrally from the Northwest to the Southeast direction. Kanger River is a tributary of the Kolab River, which ultimately joins the **Godavari River.**
- It has a Blend of mixed moist deciduous type of forests with the predominance of **Sal, teak, and bamboo.**

### **Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary**

- The recent sighting of the Indian Long-Billed Vulture (Indian Vulture) at the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary highlights the success of protected area-based conservation efforts.
- It is situated in the Ramadevara Betta Hill Range in Ramanagara, Karnataka.



- It is India's first and only vulture sanctuary established in 2012 and notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) in 2017 to safeguard endangered vulture species.
- The Sanctuary is home to three of the nine vulture species found in India –
- The Indian Long-Billed Vulture (IUCN Status – Critically Endangered )
- Egyptian Vulture (IUCN Status –Endangered )
- White-Backed Vulture (IUCN Status – Critically Endangered )
- It is India's first manmade wildlife sanctuary.
- It is an artificially cultivated forest without a perennial supply of water, and most of the **wildlife species were artificially introduced.**

### **Sheathia rosemalayensis**

- In a recent discovery, researchers recently identified a new species of freshwater algae named 'Sheathia rosemalayensis', in Rosemala, located in Kollam district, Kerala.
- It was discovered in Rosemala, located in THE western ghats of Kerala, and has been named after the place where it was found.
- This discovery is crucial because Sheathia species are extremely rare in India. Before this, only one other species was reported from the Himalayas.

### **Sagreshwar wildlife sanctuary**

- It has 536 sambars and 295 cheetals (spotted deer), making the sanctuary one of the highest in deer population, especially among manmade wildlife sanctuaries.
- It is located in the Sangli district of **Maharashtra**.

## **3.2 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Tribes in news - Kuki-Zos**

- Ethnic tribal group inhabiting the hilly regions of Manipur, Mizoram, and other northeastern states of India except Arunachal Pradesh.
- They urged the Centre to create a separate administration in the wake of the violent clashes between their community and the Meiteis.

#### **History:**

- The first resistance to British hegemony by the Kuki people was the Kuki Rebellion of 1917-19.
- Up until their defeat in 1919, the Kukis had been an independent people ruled by their chieftains.

### **Gond Tribe**

- The Gond or Gondi (Gōndi) or Koitur are a Dravidian ethno-linguistic group.
- They are one of the largest tribal groups in India. According to the 2001 census, their population was nearly 11 million.
- Distribution : Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Odisha are home to the largest Gond populations.
- Gond tribes also live in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Gujarat.
- Customs and Festivals : Keslapur Jathra and Madai are important festivals of the Gonds.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

### Unemployment for Women in the Country Reduced to 3.2%

- The Ministry of Labor and Employment has reported that the labor force participation rate for women workers in the country has increased to 41.7 percent, while unemployment among women has decreased from 5.6 percent to 3.2 percent.
- The female labor force participation rate, which stood at 23.3 percent in 2017-18, has increased to 41.7 percent in 2023-24.
- Unemployment among women has also reduced from 5.6 percent to 3.2 percent.

### Anti-Dumping Duty on Chinese and Japanese Chemicals

- The central government has imposed an anti-dumping duty on trichloro isocyanuric acid, a water purification chemical imported from China and Japan.
- This chemical will be taxed at a rate of 986 US dollars (Rs. 86,083) per ton.
- This tax will remain in effect for the next 5 years.

## 4.2 CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY

### SEBI's centralised database portal-Bond Central

- It is for corporate bonds in a bid to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities.
- developed by Online Bond Platform Providers Association and Market Infrastructure Institutions

### About SEBI

- it is the key regulatory authority for the Indian securities market, established to protect investor interests, promote market growth, and ensure the fairness and transparency of financial transactions.

- Initially formed in 1988, SEBI was given statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992.

### Overall Performance of the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)

- The combined ICI increased by 4.6% in January 2025 compared to January 2024.

### ICI Composition & Significance:

- **ICI consists of 8 core industries:** Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity.
- ICI represents 40.27% of the total weight of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- It is prepared every month and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and

Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

### **Retail Inflation -lower than RBI's target**

- India's retail inflation dipped to a seven-month low of 3.6% as food prices eased in February 2025, led by vegetables, pulses, and eggs.
- **Below RBI Target:** Inflation now lower than RBI's 4% target
- It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after July 2024," said by the National Statistics Office (NSO)

- **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI):** Increased by 3.75% (slowest in almost 2 years).
- Retail inflation was the highest in Kerala at 7.3% and the lowest in Telangana at just 1.3%. Nine of the 22 States had inflation above 4%.
- Varying food prices are the reason for this differential
- **Retail inflation** – It is also known as Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.

## **4.3 REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- India, as the world's most populous nation, faces challenges in achieving the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- According to the State of States report released on February 27, 2025, India lags in nine out of the 16 SDGs.
- This report marks the performance of all 36 state of Indias and Union territories (UTs) in relation to these goals.

### **About Sustainable Development Goals**

- The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 global goals aimed at addressing various global challenges.

### **Current Status of India's SDG Performance**

- The report reveals that only four out of the 15 assessed SDGs have been met at least halfway by all states and UTs. These are SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 7 and SDG 8.

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger

- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequality
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- Partnerships to achieve the Goal

### **UN Report on Gender Equality**

- It is a comprehensive assessment of gender equality and women's rights worldwide, marking 30 years since the 1995 Beijing Declaration.

- It Evaluates progress, setbacks, and threats to women's rights, legal protections, and policy advancements.
- Published by - UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Health Impacts: Air pollution reduces life expectancy by 5.2 years and causes 1.5 million deaths annually due to diseases linked to PM2.5 exposure.
- Major pollution sources: Vehicle emissions, industrial discharges, biomass and crop burning contribute significantly.

### Key Findings

- **Widespread Gender Discrimination:** Women have only 64% of the legal rights that men have globally.
- Women hold just 26% of parliamentary seats worldwide.

### Status of gender equity and equality in India

- **Progress in Workforce Participation:** The female labor force participation rate increased from 23.3% to 37%.
- **Education Advancements:** There's a 28% increase in female higher education enrollment over 10 years, with women making up 43% of STEM students.
- **Rural Women's Involvement:** Over nine crore women participate in 83 lakh self-help groups, enhancing rural socio-economic conditions.

### World Air Quality Report 2024

- India ranks as the fifth most polluted country in the World Air Quality Report 2024, improving from third place in 2023.
- Thirteen of the top twenty polluted cities globally are located in India. Byrnihat, Assam, is identified as the most polluted city.
- PM2.5 levels in India have decreased by 7% but remain dangerously high (50.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  on average).

### Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24

- Conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO) under Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- It highlighting trends in household spending on 405 food and non-food items across rural and urban India.
- Survey Coverage: All of India (except some remote areas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

### About National Statistics Office (NSO)

- Formed in 2019, after merging the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- NSO is India's premier statistical body under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Publishes GDP data, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- Conducts large-scale surveys, including National Sample Surveys (NSS), Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), and Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES).

### World Happiness Report 2025

- It is An annual global report that ranks countries based on life satisfaction and happiness levels of their citizens.

- Published by the Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford.
- Released in collaboration with Gallup, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and an independent editorial board.
- **Global Ranking - Top 3 Nations:** Finland (Topper - 1st, for the eighth consecutive year), Denmark (2nd) and Iceland (3rd).
- **Bottom 3 Nations:** Afghanistan (147th), Sierra Leone, and Lebanon.
- **India's Ranking Position:**
  - India ranked 118th out of 147 countries.
  - Score improved from 4.054 (2021-23) to 4.389 (2022-24).
  - Ranked below Pakistan (109) and Nepal (92).
- **Six key indicators:** GDP per capita, Healthy life expectancy, Social support, Freedom, Generosity, Perception of corruption.

### **About World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

- It is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 192 Member States and Territories.
- **India is a member of WMO.**
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **United Nations World Water Development Report**

- WWDR is UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues.
- Launched on World Water Day (March 22), the report focuses on a different theme each year and gives policy recommendations to decision-makers by offering best practices and in-depth analyses.
- **Report Name: "Water Towers: Mountains and Glaciers" (2025 Edition).**
- **Published by:** UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) on behalf of UN-Water.
- **Theme:** Mountains and glaciers - Water towers
- The report says that "all mountain ranges" have shown evidence of warming since the early 20th century.
- Retreating glaciers threaten the food and water supply of 2 billion people around the world.

### **State of Global Climate Report 2024**

- It is released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- According to the State of Global Climate report 2024, global warming is nearing the 1.5°C Paris Agreement threshold.
- Current Warming Levels: Global warming stands at 1.34-1.41°C above pre-industrial levels, with 19 of the last 20 months surpassing the 1.5°C threshold.
- The world could surpass the 1.5°C threshold by September 2029.
- Carbon Dioxide Levels: In 2023, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> reached 151% of pre-industrial levels, the highest in 800,000 years.

**About World Water Day 2025:**

- **Date Celebrated:** Annually on March 22.
- **Theme for 2025:** "Glacier Preservation" - focusing on safeguarding glaciers as vital freshwater reserves

**World Social Protection Report (WSPR) 2024-26**

- It was released by the **International Labour Organization**.
- As per the WSPR, India's social protection coverage doubled from 24.4% in 2021 to 48.8% in **2024**.
- 65% of India's population (92 crore people) is covered under at least one social protection benefit (cash or in-kind), with 48.8% receiving cash benefits.
- A comprehensive Data Pooling Exercise: Conducted by the Union Labour Ministry in collaboration with the ILO, analyzing 200 crore records across 34 major Central schemes (e.g., MGNREGA, EPF, ESI).
- It does not account for: In-kind benefits provided to the citizens of the country

(e.g., food security, housing benefits), State-administered social protection schemes.

**Global Happiness Rankings**

- Finland has once again secured its position as the world's happiest country for the eighth consecutive year, India ranked 126th out of 143 countries
  - Denmark
  - Iceland
  - Sweden
  - Netherlands

▪ The study, conducted by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in collaboration with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

**Factors Influencing Happiness Rankings**

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, Healthy life expectancy, Social support, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity, Perceptions of corruption

## 4.4 TAX STRUCTURE IN INDIA

**Anti-Dumping Duties**

- India has recently introduced anti-dumping duties on **five products imported from China**.
- This decision aims to protect local industries from unfair competition posed by low-priced imports.

foreign imports believed to be priced below fair market value.

▪ These measures are in line with **World Trade Organization (WTO)** regulations.

▪ India has a growing trade deficit with China, which reached USD 85 billion in 2023-24.

**About Anti-Dumping Duties**

- Anti-dumping duties are tariffs imposed on

▪ The Government of India is taking steps to safeguard its domestic industries.





# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### AI Kosha

- The Indian government has launched **AI Kosha**, a repository for non-personal datasets to support AI development.
- The IndiaAI Datasets Platform is one of the seven pillars of the IndiaAI Mission, which has a ₹10,370 crore budget.
- It is primarily for **Indian language translation** and other domains like health, Census, and satellite imagery, meteorological data, and pollution data.
- The government is supporting for developing an indigenous AI model similar to China's Deep Seek.
- In 2018, **Kris Gopalakrishnan (Infosys co-founder)** committee constituted by the government to examine the feasibility of making private firms share non-personal data with start-ups and the government.

### NITI Frontier Tech Hub

- It is established by NITI Aayog, aims to boost India's quantum computing capabilities and Strengthen scientific research and industrial growth in quantum technologies.
- Quantum computing has implications for national security. The NITI Frontier Tech Hub identifies several areas of concern:
  - Military Applications
  - Cryptography

- Intelligence Gathering
- Economic Warfare
- Geopolitical Power

### National Quantum Mission

- In 2023, the Government of India launched the National Quantum Mission with a ₹6,003.65 crore budget over eight years, focusing on Quantum Computing, Communication, Sensing, and Materials to drive research and industrial growth.

### Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR)

- **Developed By:** Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) & Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL).
- **Indigenous Vendors:** Equipment and components sourced from domestic private vendors under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- The BSMRs are modified versions of India's existing Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) and will have a capacity of 200 MW each
- They will be fuelled by slightly enriched uranium
- The BSMR was based on the “globally proven” pressurised water reactor technology. It was equipped with passive safety features as well as several engineered safety systems to ensure nuclear safety during accidents.

**Applications & Strategic Use**

- These BSMRs will be used by energy intensive industries such as steel, aluminium, and cement for captive power.
- Remote Area Electrification: Can provide power in remote regions.
- **Long-Term Goal:** 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047.

**The National Quantum Mission (NQM)**

- The Centre has made operational Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in four leading institutions to develop quantum computer technology.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is funding quantum technology development across multiple States.
- These hubs focus on quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing & metrology, and quantum materials & devices.
- Institutions Leading the Quantum Mission: T-Hub Locations:
  - Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
    - IIT-Bombay
    - IIT-Delhi
    - IIT-Madras
    - IIT-Kanpur is designated as a management coordinating centre but is not one of the hubs.
- These T-Hubs consist of 14 technical groups, covering 17 States and two Union Territories.

**Successful Launch of Twin Spacecraft**

- ISRO has successfully coordinated two spacecraft in orbit under the SpaceX project.
- In this mission, two spacecraft weighing 220 kg each, named SpaceX A and SpaceX B, were separately designed and launched into space using the PSLV C-60 rocket from Sriharikota.
- The spacecraft traveled in the same orbit one after another, reduced the distance between them, and were successfully coordinated.
- With this achievement, India has become the fourth country to use "space docking" technology.
- This serves as a preliminary step toward establishing the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian Space Station) in space by 2035.

**Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201**

- Two advanced 32-bit microprocessors are designed for space applications and represent leap in India's indigenous technology capabilities.
- Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- This initiative aligns with India's "Make in India" campaign, promoting self-reliance in critical technology sectors
- Vikram 3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor. It is designed to withstand the harsh conditions of space.

## 5.2 SPACE

### Aditya Spacecraft Captures Solar Flare: ISRO

- The Aditya L-1 spacecraft was designed by ISRO to study the outer layers of the Sun.
- This spacecraft was launched from Sriharikota on September 2, 2023, using the PSLV C-57 rocket.
- It studies the Sun's corona, photosphere, and chromosphere regions.
- The "SUIT" research instrument has discovered previously unknown light flash emissions in the outer layers of the Sun.
- Studies are being conducted through this instrument to prevent the effects of solar radiation.
- The SUIT instrument was designed in collaboration with other organizations at the Space Research Center in Pune.

### Aditya-L1 Mission

- ISRO releases second set of scientific data from Aditya mission.
- The datasets comprise valuable scientific information about the Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and its outer atmosphere (corona) along with the in-situ particles and magnetic field measurements at first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point L1.
- The Aditya L1 datasets will be accessible from the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) portal.

### About Aditya-L1 Mission

- First dedicated solar mission of India.
- Launched on: September 2, 2023

- Launch vehicle: PSLV C-57
- Current status: Observing the Sun in its third revolution in the halo orbit around L1.
- Helps in understanding solar activities and their impact on Earth
- Studies solar storms, coronal mass ejections (CMEs), and space weather.

### Space Debris

- According to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) 'Space debris is all man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are non-functional'.
  - It includes defunct satellites, rocket stages, and fragments from explosions or collisions.
  - India's initiative
  - Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), Network for Space object TRacking and Analysis (NETRA).
  - Debris-Free Space Missions (DFSM) Initiative (2024) by ISRO
  - It aims to achieve debris-free space missions by all Indian space actors, both governmental and non-governmental, by 2030
- ### Chandrayaan-5 Mission
- The government has officially approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission
  - This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan
  - Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250 kg rover to study the Moon's surface.

**Chandrayaan Mission**

- Chandrayaan-1 (2008) - Discovered water molecules on the Moon
- Chandrayaan-2 (2019) - Orbiter successful, lander crashed
- Chandrayaan-3 (2023) - First successful soft landing on Moon's south pole
- Chandrayaan-4 (expecting 2027) - Lunar soil sample collection and return to Earth

- Chandrayaan-5 (expecting 2028) - Advanced surface study with a 250 kg rover

**ISRO's other future plans**

- Gaganyaan Mission: India's first manned mission to space.
- Bharatiya Antariksh Station: India's own space station by 2035.





## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### **‘One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)’**

- It is a initiative to Standardizes port operations to reduce inefficiencies, costs, and delays.
- It aims at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.

### **Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)**

- Benchmarks port performance to enhance efficiency and global competitiveness.

### **India’s Global Maritime Position:**

- World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023: India ranks 22nd in "International Shipments," up from 44th.

### **The Sugam Portal**

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has enhanced its digital platform, the Sugam Portal, to facilitate online applications for clinical trial site additions and changes in principal investigators for biological products.

### **About Sugam Portal**

- The Sugam Portal is an online system designed for manufacturers to apply for necessary licenses and approvals from CDSCO.
- The portal aims to simplify the submission process for various drug-related applications.
- The Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) has proposed that the Sugam Portal should include a database of drug products with their brand names.

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed concerns regarding the use of identical brand names for different medications. Such practices can lead to serious health risks due to confusion in prescriptions.

### **Aadhaar Good Governance portal**

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has recently launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal.
- This initiative aims to streamline the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests.
- The portal is part of a broader effort to enhance ease of living and improve service accessibility for citizens.

### **Purpose**

- The portal serves to facilitate the submission and approval of Aadhaar authentication requests.
- It aims to make the process more efficient for both government and non-government entities.
- This aligns with the goal of improving transparency and inclusivity in public services.

### **Recent Legislative Changes**

- The portal’s launch follows the amendment of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. This amendment, notified in January 2025, expands the scope of Aadhaar authentication. It allows various entities to use Aadhaar for public interest services, thereby enhancing service delivery.

## India Launches Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)

- A multi-nation alliance for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships on sustainable urban development.
- Focuses on waste management and resource efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Prime Minister Advocated the Pro-Planet People (P-3) approach and Emphasized 3R principles – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle for circular economy.

### CITIIS 2.0 MoU Signed:

- Aims to create model urban projects for sustainability.
- Agreements worth ₹1,800 crore to benefit 18 cities across 14 States.

### International Agreements

- Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023): Framework for waste reduction and circular economy.
- Paris Agreement (2015): India committed to sustainable development goals (SDGs).

### Government Initiatives Related to Sustainability

- Swachh Bharat Mission: Focuses on waste management and sanitation.
- Smart Cities Mission: Aims for sustainable urban development.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Ensures industries manage post-consumer waste.
- Plastic Waste Management Rules: Regulates single-use plastics.

### IRCTC Granted 'Navratna' Status

- The central government has approved granting 'Navratna' status to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), both

public sector undertakings of Indian Railways.

- The Railway Ministry stated that out of the 12 total public sector undertakings operating under Indian Railways, 7 listed public sector companies have now received Navratna status.
- Navratna status is awarded to central public sector enterprises that perform exceptionally well in financial and commercial markets.

### 7th Meeting of the National Wildlife Board

- Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the National Wildlife Recommendation Center in Junagadh district of Gujarat. He also released a book about river dolphins.
- The 16th Asiatic Lion Census is scheduled to begin in May.
- The central government recently allocated Rs. 2,900 crore for the 'Lion Project' aimed at protecting Asiatic lions.
- Currently, Asiatic lions in India are found only in the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary.

### Second edition of Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- The President of India, inaugurated the second edition of Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Rashtrapati Bhavan on March, 2025.
- This festival highlights the rich cultural heritage of India by showcasing different regions in separate editions.
- The second edition focuses on the Southern states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, along with the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
- This initiative provides a platform for artisans, performers, writers, and culinary experts to exhibit their talent while allowing visitors to



experience the vibrant traditions, handicrafts, literature, and cuisine of South India.

### **Key Highlights of Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

#### **▪ Objective and Theme**

- Celebrates India's cultural diversity through multiple regional editions.
- Focuses on Southern states and Union Territories in the second edition.
- Aims to promote artisans and artists while fostering public participation.

#### **▪ Cultural Showcasing**

- Features handicrafts, handloom exhibitions, workshops, and performances.
- Literary events provide insights into the rich history and traditions of South India.
- Food courts offer an authentic taste of regional delicacies.

#### **▪ Participation and Involvement**

- Around 500 artisans and weavers are taking part in the festival.
- Open for public participation, allowing interaction with artists and cultural experts.
- Boosts morale and provides economic opportunities for local craftsmen.

### **The National Commission for Women (NCW)**

- NCW will launch 21 pre-marital communication centres across nine states including Delhi, to provide counselling and guidance on marriage-related issues.
- NCW plans to set up these centres across all districts in country over the next one year.
- ABOUT NCW
- It is an autonomous statutory body established to protect and promote women's rights in India.

- Formed under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990

- It plays a crucial role in policy advocacy, legal reforms, and women's welfare initiatives.

- Established In: January 31, 1992, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### **'e-Shram' Platform**

- The Union Ministry of Labor and Employment has announced that workers in online food delivery, vehicle transport, and professional services must register on the 'e-Shram' website.
- There are over 1 crore workers in this sector in India. NITI Aayog has estimated this will reach 2.35 crore by 2029-30.
- These workers will be provided with identity cards and health benefits including free medical insurance up to Rs.5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

### **6 Women Achievers Who Managed the Prime Minister's Social Media Accounts**

- Master Vaishali Ramesh Babu (sister of Chess Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa) was honored as Tamil Nadu's chess player.
- Anita Devi, known as 'Mushroom Lady', provided livelihood to rural women in Bihar through mushroom cultivation.
- Elena Mishra has worked as a woman scientist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.
- Shilpi Soni, a woman scientist who worked at ISRO for 24 years.
- Ajaytha Shah, CEO of Frontier Markets, has transformed thousands of rural women into entrepreneurs.
- Anjali Agarwal, a leading advocate for gender equality and rights of differently-abled persons.

- All these women managed the Prime Minister's social media accounts.

### High Priority to Women's Safety in the Last 10 Years; Central Government

- Economic empowerment programs like 'Lakshadipati Sister', 'Namo Drone Sister' have been provided.
- 3 crore women have become homeowners under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme. Additionally, toilets have been built in millions of homes, ensuring women's dignity.
- Maternity leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- To protect the lives of Muslim sisters, a strict law against triple talaq was created. With the removal of Article 370, women's property rights were established in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Women's participation in the judiciary has increased. 35% of district court judges are women, and in many states over 50% of civil judges appointed are women.
- In cases related to sexual violence, procedures have been established to file charges within 60 days and deliver judgments within 45 days.
- Under the Zero FIR section, women subjected to violence can file complaints at any police station.
- Approval has been given to set up 800 fast-track courts to expedite cases of crimes against women, most of which are now operational.

### 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign

- It was launched on December 7, 2024.
- across 455 districts in 33 States/UTs
- Aim : to screen and test for TB among people belonging to the vulnerable or high-risk group – diabetics, smokers, alcoholics, people

living with HIV, those with TB in the past, geriatric population, house-hold contacts of TB patients.

- Screening Methodology: The campaign aimed to detect subclinical/asymptomatic TB cases using AI-enhanced chest X-rays followed by bacteriological confirmation through molecular testing.
- To detect such cases, the campaign claimed that a “new strategy was designed” for early identification of TB by using X-ray for screening people without TB symptoms.
- TB Notification Trends: TB case have been increasing yearly.
- The 100-day campaign is too short to achieve PM’s goal of TB elimination by 2025.

### Global Engagement Scheme

- It aims to promote India’s diverse cultural heritage on the global stage and foster international cultural collaborations.
- Nodal ministry - the Ministry of Culture
- The Global Engagement Scheme is administered through Indian Missions Abroad and has **3 components**:
  - Festival of India
  - Grant in aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies
  - Contribution Grant to International Organizations

### 'Pratibimb' module

- 6,046 cyber criminals arrested with help of 'Pratibimb' module
- It is a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based software
- It was launched by the Union Home Ministry's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

- The module 'Pratibimb' maps the locations of criminals and crime infrastructure on a map to give visibility to jurisdictional officers.
- It is to deal with all types of cybercrimes in the country in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- The state-of-the-art 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (Investigation)' has been established as part of the I4C in New Delhi to provide early-stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police.

### **Rs. 2,347 Crore Released for Minority Development**

- Rs. 2,347 crore has been released as loan concession over the past three years, benefiting 5.50 lakh people from minority communities.
- This was provided through the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).
- According to the "National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992," people belonging to Buddhism, Christianity, Jainism, Islam, Parsi, and Sikhism are considered minorities.

### **Tur Dal Procurement under Price Support Scheme**

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture has informed that 1.31 lakh tonnes of tur dal (pigeon pea) have been procured during the 2024-25 Kharif season under this scheme.
- Approval was granted for the procurement of 13.22 lakh tonnes of tur dal across 9 states: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

### **MSP (Minimum Support Price)**

- MSP was first proposed in 1966, inspired by the Green Revolution.
- Government responsibility: Maintaining MSP every year to control the prices of important agricultural commodities.
- Kharif and Rabi crops: MSP equally affects both these crops.

### **India's solar power**

- A study by researchers at IIT Delhi concluded that by mid-century, the efficiency of solar panels will drop by 2.3% owing to pollution.
- India = 5th largest solar power producer globally.
- **Target:** 50% power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
- **Plan:** 500 GW renewable energy, one-fifth from solar.
- **300 sunny days/year in India**, but air pollution reduces radiation.
- **Northeast India & Kerala** will have higher solar potential due to fewer clouds.

### **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID**

- It is introduced under the National Education Policy 2020 by the ministry of education and aligned with the National Credit Framework.
- it aims to establish a "One Nation, One Student ID" system to streamline academic records and facilitate transitions between educational levels.
- APAAR assigns a 12-digit ID, linking academic records to DigiLocker and Academic Bank of Credits for storage and verification.

## **'Agri Stack' for Integrating Land Documents**

- Under the Prime Minister's Honorarium Scheme, it has been made mandatory for farmers to register on the 'Agri Stack' website. This website consolidates and uploads farmers' land documents.
- These activities are being implemented throughout Tamil Nadu through the Department of Agriculture.
- Farmers' details can be uploaded using Aadhaar cards, mobile numbers, land pattas, and chittas.
- In Tamil Nadu, 22.48 lakh farmers in 37 districts are provided with the Prime Minister's Honorarium.
- So far, out of the 27.65 lakh farmers allocated to the Department of Agriculture, 13.34 lakh (48.26%) details have been uploaded on the Agri Stack website.
- In the Agricultural Business Department, out of 2.46 lakh people, 1.21 lakh (49.46%) have been uploaded; in the Agricultural Engineering Department, out of 95,000 people, 41,000 (42.86%); and in the Agricultural Seed Certification Department, out of 60,000 people, 28,000 (46.77%) details have been uploaded.

## **Separate Drug Control System for AYUSH Medicines : Parliamentary Standing Committee Recommendation**

- Under the Drugs Act of 1940, a separate regulatory ministry should be created for AYUSH medicines.
- By coordinating the Indian Medicine and Homeopathy Drugs Commission and the Central Council for Ayurvedic Sciences,

AYUSH medicines can be examined and evaluated.

- Health and Ayurveda exhibitions should be conducted in India's 28 states and 8 union territories.
- Efforts to use the AYUSH medicine system for disease prevention and treatment should be encouraged.
- AYUSH medical systems should be popularized among Indians living in developed countries like Britain and the United States.
- Emphasis should be placed on skill development and medical education in the AYUSH sector.

## **Raisina Dialogue**

- It is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing global challenges
- Hosted annually in New Delhi
- The 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue is set to take place from March 17 to March 19, 2025.
- The central theme for Raisina Dialogue 2025 is "Kalachakra – People, Peace and Planet."
- Over 3,500 participants from around 125 countries will join the Raisina Dialogue in person, making it one of the largest diplomatic gatherings in India

## **The Fit India Carnival**

- It is a first-of-its-kind three-day fitness and wellness event
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports in New Delhi.
- The event aims to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and healthy lifestyle choices among citizens.

## Prime Minister's Vocational Training Program App

- The Central Government has introduced a mobile application for the "Prime Minister's Vocational Training Program," a new initiative aimed at enhancing the vocational skills of youth.
- Under this program, the government has set a target of providing 1.27 lakh vocational training opportunities during the 2024-25 period. In the first phase, they planned to provide 1.27 lakh opportunities.
- In the second phase of the training program, 1.18 lakh training opportunities have been announced by 327 organizations.
- Youth enrolling in this program will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 for 12 months, plus a one-time grant of Rs. 6,000.

## New Supreme Court Judge Takes Oath

- Jayamalya Bagchi, who was a judge at the Kolkata High Court, has been sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge. The oath was administered by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Sanjiv Khanna.
- With this appointment, the number of Supreme Court judges has increased to 33.
- The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 34.
- He will serve until the year 2031, which is over 6 years.
- The Central Government appointed him as a Supreme Court judge based on the Collegium's recommendation.

## List of Most Air-Polluted Countries for the Year 2024

- Switzerland-based IQAir company has released the Air Quality Index list. This list collected air quality data from 8,954 cities across 138 countries.
- Data was collected from over 40,000 air quality monitoring stations to compile this list.
- According to World Health Organization recommendations, the PM 2.5 level in the air should be between 0-5 micrograms/cubic meter.
- Important Rankings:
  - Chad - This country recorded a PM 2.5 level of 91.8, which is 18 times higher than the recommended level, placing it at the top of the list.
  - Bangladesh (78)
  - Pakistan (73.7)
  - Congo (58.2)
  - India (50.6) - ranked 5th.

## 'Scam Se Bacho' Campaign

- Launched by The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) partnered with WhatsApp
- The collaboration is part of India's broader digital safety strategy as the nation continues its digital transformation.

### Primary Goal:

- Enhance digital safety & awareness among citizens.
- Educate users on identifying & reporting fraudulent communications.
- The campaign will feature train-the-trainer workshops. These workshops will target DoT



officials, Sanchar Mitras, and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

▪ These were inscribed by Maurya Emperor Ashoka during the 3rd century BCE.

### **Voter Card - Aadhaar Linkage**

- The Election Commission has stated that the process of linking Aadhaar numbers with voter ID cards will be carried out as per existing laws and Supreme Court directives.
- The linking of Aadhaar numbers with voter ID cards will be implemented based on Article 326 of the Constitution, Sections 23(4), 23(5), 23(6) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Supreme Court judgment delivered in 2023 regarding this matter.

### **Six properties added to India's Tentative List by UNESCO World Heritage Centre**

- Before a site can be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, it must first be included in a country's Tentative List.
- **Six Sites in India's Tentative List**

#### **1. Kanger Valley National Park**

- **Location:** Bastar District, Chhattisgarh.
- Draws its name from Kanger River.
- Karst topography with Limestone Caves and Tirathgarh Waterfalls.

#### **2. Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs**

- Megalithic astronomical observatory site located near the banks of Krishna River, Telangana.
- A menhir is a man-made standing or an upright stone, which is usually tapered at the top.
- Estimated to be 3,500 to 4,000 years old.

#### **3. Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes**

- These include Major Rock Edicts, Minor Rock Edicts, Pillar Edicts, and Other Edicts and Cave Inscriptions.

### **4. Chausath Yogini Temples**

- **Locations:** Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.
- Have 64 images of Yoginis and are associated with tantric worship.
- Most Chausath Yogini temples are circular in plan except for the Khajuraho, Badoh and Rikhiyan, which are rectangular.

### **5. Gupta Temples in North India**

- Combines elements of Nagara and Dravida architectural styles and of Buddhist and Hindu styles.
- Temples had a basic square plan and flat roof with a circumambulatory path and a low height Shikhara.
- Made of sun-dried bricks and terracotta, with some made in sandstone.

### **6. The of the Bundelas Palace-Fortresses**

- Six forts including Garhkundar Fort, Raja Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Datia Palace, Jhansi Fort and Dhubela Palace,
- Blend of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles.

### **Kamba Ramayana**

- The culture ministry is set to embark on a comprehensive initiative to preserve and promote the 'Kamba Ramayana', one of the most significant works in Tamil literature.
- It has planned a week-long immersive festival to be held at KambarMedu, the birthplace of Kambar in Theraazhundur.
- This festival will feature continuous recitals of the 'Kamba Ramayana', dance dramas,



and scholarly discussions on the cultural and literary significance of the epic.

- The South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), under the Ministry of Culture, is launching a comprehensive initiative aimed at reviving the oral tradition of 'Kamba Ramayana' recitals and its broader cultural impact.
- The programme is being held in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Government.

#### **About Kamba Ramayana:**

- Kamba Ramayana, also known as Ramavataram, is a Tamil epic based on the Sanskrit Valmiki Ramayana.
- Composed by Tamil poet Kambar in the 12th century CE.

#### **About Kambar:**

- Kambar, also known as Kavichakravarthy Kambar, was a renowned Tamil poet.
- Born in Therazhundur, located in the present-day Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu.
- Kambar lived and flourished in the Chola Empire during the reign of Kulothunga III.

### **India's First PPP-Based Green Waste Processing Plant**

- Indore is set to launch India's first PPP-based green waste processing plant under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- The initiative aims to convert green waste into eco-friendly products and promote sustainable waste management.
- It is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model waste processing facility for converting green waste into eco-resources.
- To process green waste (wood, leaves, branches, flowers) into pellets and sawdust,

replacing coal and supporting clean energy goals.

#### **About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-Urban):**

- Launched on 2nd October 2014.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- To achieve universal sanitation coverage and maintain cleanliness across urban areas.
- **Components:**
  - SBM-Urban 1.0 (2014–2019): Focused on making all urban areas ODF.
  - SBM-Urban 2.0 (launched 2021): Targeting bioremediation of 2,400 legacy landfill sites by 2025–26.

#### **Sansad Bhashini Initiative**

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an MoU to launch the Sansad Bhashini initiative.
- It is an AI-based digital initiative designed to enable real-time translation, transcription, and data access of parliamentary records in multiple Indian languages.

#### **Aim :**

- To enhance multilingual support in parliamentary proceedings.
- To make parliamentary debates, documents, and archives more accessible for MPs, researchers, and the public.
- To promote linguistic diversity in governance and digital accessibility.

### **Dairy Development Plan, New Urea Plant, UPI Transactions - Financial Allocations; Cabinet Approval**

- **Dairy Development Plan:**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a financial allocation of Rs. 6,190 crore for national-level milk production and dairy development programs (Rashtriya Gokul Mission and National Dairy Development Plan).
- These programs will operate from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Under the financial allocation, an additional Rs. 1,000 crore has been allocated to increase milk production and ensure growth in the dairy sector.
- With this, India is the 5th largest economy in the world.
- Coal is used as a major fuel source in India, especially for power generation. 74% of the country's electricity is produced through coal-based power plants.
- In 2023-24, 997.83 million tons of coal was produced.

### **National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP)**

- NWHP aims to strengthen wildlife disease surveillance, research, and diagnostics.
- The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** launched the National Wildlife Health Policy (NWHP) to improve wildlife health management and address zoonotic diseases.
- This initiative is an integral part of the National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-31) and follows the One Health approach, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

### **New Urea Plant:**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new urea plant in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,601.4 crore.
- This plant has the capacity to produce 12.7 lakh tons of urea annually.
- The plant will begin operations within 4 years.

### **Small UPI Transactions:**

- To encourage UPI transactions below Rs. 2,000, the Union Cabinet has created an incentive scheme worth approximately Rs. 1,500 crore.
- Through this, the government will bear the MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) costs that merchants would otherwise have to pay to banks.

### **About UPI:**

- **Introduction:** April 11, 2016
- Implemented through the National Payments Corporation of India

### **2023-24 Coal Production in India**

- India's coal production has currently exceeded 1 billion (100 crore) tons, which is considered a significant achievement.

### **National Referral Centre for Wildlife (NRC-W)**

- Recently inaugurated in Junagadh, Gujarat, NRC-W serves as a central hub for wildlife health management.
- It is India's first dedicated wildlife disease diagnostic and research centre.
- The centre investigates wildlife mortalities, disease outbreaks, and provides treatment solutions.

### **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**

- It is a statutory body established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It was formed in 1992 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

- It works to enhance wildlife conservation efforts and maintain the health of animals in zoological parks.

### India's nuclear energy initiatives

- India launches Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant and Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Plant projects to fuel its energy future and strengthen nuclear power capacity.

#### Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Project (Haryana)

- First nuclear project in North India, coming up in Gorakhpur (Fatehabad District), Haryana.
- Strengthens India's nuclear infrastructure and geographical expansion.

#### Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant (Maharashtra)

- Largest nuclear power plant in India once completed.
- Will house six reactors of 1,730 MW each, totaling 10,380 MW capacity.
- Will contribute 10% of India's 100 GW nuclear energy goal by 2047.

#### Government's Policy Shift

- Private sector participation introduced to speed up nuclear energy development.
- Aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 with nuclear power playing a major role.

### SwaYaan Initiative

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Drone Federation of India launched the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Research (NIDAR).
- It was Launched under the SwaYaan – Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) initiative.
- Encourage research, innovation, and real-world drone applications in disaster management and precision agriculture.

#### About SwaYaan Initiative:

- A comprehensive capacity-building program for drone and allied technologies in India.
- Launched in: Approved by MeitY in July 2022.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It aims to Train 42,560 participants to create a skilled drone technology workforce.

#### 'DareeraD TB' initiative

- The **Department of Biotechnology**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, has completed the genomic sequencing of a third, or 10,000 samples, of the target of 32,500 samples of Mycobacterium tuberculosis – the bacterium behind tuberculosis (TB)
- The genome sequencing initiative, part of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB (Dare2eraD TB), an umbrella programme of the DBT.
- It was launched in **2022** with a goal to sequence about 32,500 samples from across the country.
- It is tied to the Centre's broader mission to eliminate TB.
- Nine labs of the DBT, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** are involved in the programme as part of a consortium called Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance.
- Full sequencing of all 32,500 samples is expected by October 2025.

#### India's TB Elimination Goal

- PM announced in 2018 that India aims to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the WHO's 2030 target.
- India accounts for 28% of new global TB cases.

- Gujarat has achieved a remarkable 95 per cent of the target set by NITI Aayog for TB registration and treatment success.

### **Findings from Genome Sequencing**

- 7% of sequenced samples show resistance to a single drug.
- Most TB cases were in the 18-45 age group.
- Many affected individuals were diabetic and underweight.

### **Anti-TB campaign will be expanded to all districts**

- **100-Day TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (Launched: December 7, 2024)**
- 12.97 crore people screened for tuberculosis (TB).
- 7.19 lakh TB cases detected, including **2.85 lakh asymptomatic cases**.
- TB treatment coverage in India has now increased from 59% to 85%.
- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced that the campaign will now cover all districts in India.
- Centre's TB elimination strategy is based on a **"whole of the society"** and **"whole of the government"** approach.
- under the campaign, over 13.46 lakh Nikshay Shivirs (community screening and awareness camps) were organised, bringing essential TB services directly to the doorsteps of crores of people.

### **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden**

- Asia's largest tulip garden, in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India.
- Ensnconced between the Dal Lake and the Zabarwan Hills.

- The garden was established in 2007 with the intention of enhancing Kashmir Valley tourism and floriculture.

- It was formally known as Siraj Bagh.

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir hosts the Tulip Festival every spring to promote tourism.

### **Anthurium Flowers**

- The first-ever export consignment of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore.
- In India: Widely cultivated in Mizoram and other North Eastern states.
- Significant contribution to India's floriculture exports (USD 86.62 million in FY 2023-24).
- 'Anthurium Festival' is an annual cultural and tourism event celebrated in Mizoram. It showcases the beauty and commercial potential of Anthurium flowers grown in the region.
- Floriculture is commercially cultivated in several states with Tamil Nadu (21%), Karnataka (16%), Madhya Pradesh (14%) and West Bengal (12%).
- The major importing countries from India were U.S.A, Netherland, United Arab Emirates, U.K and Canada.

### **SAHYOG portal**

- SAHYOG is a centralized platform developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- It is designed to streamline data access for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and facilitate the removal of unlawful online content under the IT Act, 2000.

- The portal aims to enhance cooperation between the government and IT intermediaries by providing a structured system for handling data requests, removing unlawful content, and improving response times for cybercrime investigations.

### **Kerala Became First State To Establish Senior Citizens Commission**

- Kerala has become the first state in India to establish a Senior Citizens Commission by passing the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill, 2025.

#### **About Senior Citizens Commission**

- A statutory body established under the Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Act, 2025.
- First-of-its-kind in India, focusing exclusively on senior citizens' welfare.
- Functions as an advisory body for state policies concerning the elderly.

#### **Aim of the Commission**

- To safeguard the rights and welfare of senior citizens.
- Ensure rehabilitation, protection, and active participation of the elderly in society.
- Promote inclusivity and dignity for senior citizens in Kerala.

### **Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum**

- **Location:** North and South Blocks, New Delhi
- **Project Initiative:** Part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project
- **Objective:** Showcase India's thousands-year-old civilizational and cultural heritage, Celebrating India's timeless identity – past, present, and future

- An agreement was signed between the National Museum of India and France Museums Development for technical cooperation in the museum's development.

### **NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application)**

- Delhi has become the 28th legislature to join the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform

#### **About NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application):**

- A digital platform designed to modernize legislative operations by enabling paperless proceedings and real-time access to legislative documents.
- Created and implemented by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA), Government of India.
- Initiated under the guidance of the Government of India as part of the "One Nation, One Application" vision.
- To digitize legislative processes across all state legislatures.

### **India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples**

- **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** in Darjeeling has become India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples of Himalayan wildlife.
- **Project Name:** Popularly known as India's first frozen zoo or DNA cryogenic conservation project.
- The initiative aims to create a genetic bank or "frozen zoo" to aid future conservation efforts.

#### **About Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park**

- **Located in:** Situated in Darjeeling, West Bengal.



- Initially named **Himalayan Zoological Park**.
- **Largest high-altitude zoo in India** spread over **67.8 acres**.

### **BHIM 3.0**

- The **NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)**, a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0 app.
- **BHIM 3.0**: It is an upgraded version of BHIM.
- BHIM 3.0 has enhanced accessibility and security with support for 15+ languages, low-internet optimization, and improved security features for safer transactions.
- BHIM Unified Payment Interface (UPI) was launched in 2016 to provide a simple, fast, and secure method for cashless payments using UPI technology.
- It enabled users to send and receive money instantly through mobile phones, without requiring bank account details.
- **NPCI**: NPCI was founded in 2008 by the **RBI and Indian Banks' Association** under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to oversee and manage retail payments and settlement systems in India.

### **India's First National Cooperative University**

- The Lok Sabha recently passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, marking step in cooperative education in India.
- This initiative aims to establish the country's first national cooperative university at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in Gujarat.

- The university is designed to enhance education, research, and training in the cooperative sector nationwide.
- The Tribhuvan Sahkari University will serve as a hub for cooperative training. It will register cooperative training institutes across all states as affiliated colleges.
- The Tribhuvan Sahkari University is aligned with the government's vision of '**Sahkar Se Samriddhi**', aiming to boost rural economies and create valuable career opportunities in sectors like dairy, fisheries, and banking.

### **Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System**

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has introduced the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System to collect real-time crop-sown details directly from the field via a mobile interface.

### **Features of Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System**

- **Real-time Data Collection**: Captures crop details from fields through a mobile interface.
- **Enhanced Accuracy**: Ensures precise and up-to-date information for agricultural analysis.
- **Integration with Agri Stack**: Developed in compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and other IT regulations in India.

### **Second-Largest Tea Exporter In The World**

- Recent data released by the Tea Board of India indicates that India has emerged as the second-largest tea exporter in the world in



2024, surpassing Sri Lanka and trailing behind Kenya, which retained the top position.

### **State Economic Information Website**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the NITI-NCAER State Economic Information Center website, designed as an information repository providing extensive data on social, economic, and financial metrics of states over the past 30 years.
- This website, created by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), will categorize data from 28 Indian states up to the 2022-23 financial year into five sections: population, economic structure, finance, health, and education.
- The website will facilitate understanding of macroeconomics, finance, population, and socio-economic trends, serving as a comprehensive research center providing statistical data for policymakers and researchers
- It will meet the current need for integrated sectoral data in one place. According to a statement released by NITI Aayog, the website will also allow for comparing each state's data with other states and national statistics.

### **"Zoowin" Website to Monitor Rabies and Snake Bite Vaccine Stock**

- The central government has introduced a website called 'Zoowin' to monitor nationwide availability of rabies and snake bite vaccines. Similar to the 'Co-WIN' website introduced

for the Corona vaccination program and the 'U-WIN' website for the vaccination program for pregnant women and children, the Zoowin website will function by expanding collaboration with medical service institutions, municipal authorities, and veterinary service institutions to provide integrated information on the nationwide stock of anti-rabies vaccines and anti-snake bite vaccines.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) statistics have revealed that globally 60,000 people die each year from rabies caused by dog bites, with India accounting for 36 percent of these deaths.
- In this context, the **National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)** has developed the Zoowin website with technical support from UNDP to ensure the availability of rabies (ARIL, ASV) and snake bite (ASV) vaccines across the country.
- This website has been introduced as a pilot project in 5 states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh. After analyzing its functionality and benefits, the website will be gradually introduced to all states.
- Previously, to help those affected by rabies and snake bites receive immediate treatment and to access related information, NCDC, in collaboration with UNDP, introduced the helpline number 15400 in these 5 states last year.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## World Hypertension Congress 2025

- The sixth World Hypertension Congress 2025, held in Chennai Trade Centre, highlighted the role of Low-Sodium Salt Substitutes (LSSS) in reducing hypertension.
- Experts from various fields emphasized the need for public awareness, affordability, and policy support to promote LSSS usage.
- Organised by The George Institute for Global Health, in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives.

## Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- IPCC has begun work on its seventh cycle of assessment report.
- The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It was established by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** in 1988.
- The IPCC currently has 195 members.
- The IPCC's first assessment report was released in 1990.
- The IPCC finished its **Sixth Assessment Report** cycle in 2023 and has now entered its Seventh Assessment Report cycle.

## Agreements Between India and Mauritius

- Agreement between the Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Mauritius to encourage transactions in local currency.
- Loan agreement between the Government of Mauritius (borrower) and State Bank of India (lender).
- Agreement to strengthen cooperation between Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Agreement between Foreign Ministries as part of foreign training series.
- Agreement to strengthen cooperation between the National Centre for Good Governance of the Government of India and the Ministry of Public Service Administration Reform of Mauritius.
- Technical agreement for information sharing between the Indian Navy and the Government of Mauritius.
- Agreement to strengthen cooperation between the Indian National Ocean Information Service Center and the Mauritius Maritime Zone Administration and Research Department.
- Agreement between the Indian Enforcement Department and the Mauritius Financial Crimes Prevention Commission.

## Hague Service Convention

- **Context :** On February , 2025, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requested assistance from the Government of India under the Hague Service Convention.

### About the Hague Service Convention

- The Hague Service Convention was established in 1965.
- It aims to facilitate the service of judicial documents across international borders.
- The Convention ensures that defendants receive timely notice of legal actions.
- It is a multilateral treaty with 84 signatory states, including India and the U.S.
- Each member state designates a central authority to handle service requests.

## UN80 Initiative

- It was Launched on the 80th anniversary of the UN
- It aims to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness within the United Nations as it faces financial and operational challenges.

- It Enhance structural reforms for better mandate implementation.

## Stockholm Water Prize in 2025

- Günter Blöschl, a renowned hydrologist, has been awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize in 2025.
- This recognition marks his contributions to flood risk management and water resource engineering.
- He has developed a comprehensive 500-year flood database that analyses historical flood patterns.
- This work has revealed that the last two decades have been more flood-prone than previous centuries.
- His studies link climate change to increasing flood frequency and severity.



## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### Higher Education Enrollment Increased by 34% Due to Pudhumai Penn Scheme

- The number of female students enrolling in college through the Pudhumai Penn Scheme has increased by 34%.

#### Pudhumai Pen Scheme

- **Start date:** 05.09.2022
- Provides Rs.1,000 per month to all female students who have studied in government schools and government-aided schools from 6th to 12th standard and are pursuing higher education
- Implemented by the **Department of Social Welfare and Women's Rights**

#### Tamil Puthalvan Scheme

- **Start date:** August 9, 2024, in Coimbatore
- Provides Rs.1,000 per month to all students who have studied in government schools and government-aided schools (Tamil medium) from 6th to 12th standard until they complete undergraduate degree, diploma, or ITI courses without interruption

### 17 Village Green Forests

- The Tamil Nadu government decided in 2022 to establish 100 Emerald Groves (village forests).
- 75 groves have been established in 29 districts.
- Permission has been granted to establish 17 new groves in 5 districts at a cost of Rs. 4.25 crores.

- Each grove is created on one hectare of land.
- They include protective fencing, walking paths, wells, and other facilities.
- Native trees such as jamun, gooseberry, tamarind, guava, etc. have been planted.

### Governor Approves Two Bills Including Appointment of Special Officers for Local Bodies

- A legislative bill regarding taxation of lands containing minerals was passed in the assembly last December.
- Through this amendment act, taxes will be imposed on 13 types of major minerals (lignite, limestone, magnesite, lead) and 17 types of minor minerals (gravel, sand, stone, river sand).
- Tax rates have been fixed at Rs. 40 to Rs. 7,000 per ton for major minerals, and Rs. 40 to Rs. 420 per ton for minor minerals.

### New Hostels for Women in 9 Districts

- New Thozhi (Friend) Hostels with 700 beds will be established at a cost of Rs.72 crore in Kanchipuram, Erode, Dharmapuri, Sivagangai, Theni, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ranipet, and Suroor districts.
- The Thozhi Hostels are equipped with 24-hour security guards, biometric entry system, WiFi facility, purified drinking water, and many other amenities.

### Identity Cards for 1,000 Women Self-Help Groups

- With the identity cards provided to self-help groups, they can transport up to 25 kg of their products free of charge on village and city buses.
- Through this card, those registered under the Chief Minister's Medical Insurance Scheme can receive benefits.
- Priority will be given in obtaining loans through cooperative banks.
- Additionally, there will be 5% discount on Co-op Tex products, lower prices for Aavin products, and 10% less service charge at e-service centers.

### Wind and Solar Power Installation Capacity in 2023-24

- In 2023-24, Tamil Nadu's wind power installation capacity increased to 9,015 megawatts, and solar power installation capacity increased to 1,261 megawatts.
- Southern districts like Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Theni, and Kanyakumari receive longer hours of sunlight, making them suitable environments for setting up wind and solar power plants.
- From 2019-20 to 2022-23, installation capacity has increased across several sectors.
- Wind power installation capacity has increased from 55 megawatts to 124 megawatts, and rooftop solar capacity has increased from 44 megawatts to 101 megawatts.

### Tamil Nadu's First Economic Survey (2024-25)

- The survey was prepared by the State Planning Commission (SPC) in coordination with the Finance and several other departments.

- The services sector in Tamil Nadu witnessed a real annual growth of 7.97% from 2020-21 to 2023-24, according to Tamil Nadu's first Economic Survey.

### Growth and Economic Resilience

- Tamil Nadu is expected to maintain a growth rate of over 8% in 2024-25.
- The State has consistently achieved 8%+ growth since 2021-22 despite challenges like COVID-19, cyclones, and floods.
- India's GDP growth (7.61% in 2022-23, 9.19% in 2023-24, 6.48% in 2024-25)
- Tamil Nadu's per capita income was ₹2.78 lakh in 2022-23, 1.64 times the national average (₹1.69 lakh)
- This makes Tamil Nadu the fourth-largest State in terms of per capita income.
- The State contributed 9.21% to the national GDP in 2023-24 with a GSDP of ₹27.22 lakh crore (nominal growth of 13.71%, real growth of 8.33%).

### Sectoral and Policy Insights

- The survey covers agriculture, industry, and services, along with trends in inflation, employment, and social sector indicators.
- Tamil Nadu's economy is evenly distributed across multiple urban centres, unlike Maharashtra or Karnataka or West Bengal, where economic activity is concentrated around a single metropolitan hub.

### Future Economic Goals

- The \$1-trillion economy target by 2030 requires sustained 12% annual growth
- To achieve this, the State would need to sustain an annual growth of over 12% through industrial expansion, infrastructure development, and digital transformation.

### **Agriculture Growth in Tamil Nadu (Economic Survey 2024-25)**

- According to the Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu 2024-25, Tamil Nadu can achieve accelerated growth in agriculture and allied sectors if the State addresses challenges such as groundwater depletion and climate change.

### **Agriculture's Contribution and Workforce**

- Agriculture Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2023-24: ₹1.5 lakh crore
- Agriculture contributes 6% to the State's total GSVA, ranking as the fifth-largest sub-sector (after manufacturing, real estate, construction, and trade & repair services).
- Agriculture and related activities Employ 41.1% of the rural workforce.
- According to the Agricultural Statistics at a Glance (2024), Tamil Nadu ranked first in the productivity of oilseeds, groundnut, and sugarcane, second in maize productivity, and third in paddy productivity.

### **Social Sector Progress and Demographic Challenges**

#### **Social Sector Achievements**

- Increased enrolment in all levels of education and strengthened its public healthcare system
- Social sector expenditure grew from ₹79,859 crore (2019-20) to ₹1,15,644 crore (2023-24).

#### **Poverty reduction:**

- Tamil Nadu's poverty rate (Headcount Ratio) dropped from 36.54% (2005-06) to 1.43% (2022-23).
- India's rate declined from 55.34% to 11.28% in the same period.

### **Key welfare programs**

- Illam Thedi Kalvi (education initiative)
- Pudhumai Penn (women's education support)

- Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (doorstep healthcare)
- Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme (nutrition for school children)

- **Education Sector Highlights** -Tamil Nadu leads in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education.

### **Demographic and Health Concerns**

- Epidemiological transition: Shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease).

### **Inflation Trends and Government Measures (Economic Survey 2024-25)**

#### **Inflation Trends in Tamil Nadu**

- Retail inflation declined from - 6% (2022-23) → 5.4% (2023-24) → 4.8% (2024-25, as of Jan 2025) as per the Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu 2024-25.
- Tamil Nadu's average inflation (2019-20 to 2023-24): 5.7% (higher than India's 4.85%)

#### **Trend reversal since 2020-21**

- Tamil Nadu's inflation dropped significantly compared to the national average.
- Ranked 8th lowest retail inflation among 20 major States in 2023-24.

### **Urban vs. Rural Inflation**

- Urban inflation declined from 6% (2019-20) to 4.5% (2024-25)
- Rural inflation remained at 5.4%, driving overall inflation in the State.
- In the last three years, Tamil Nadu's average rural and urban inflation was lower than India's.

### **Factors Influencing Tamil Nadu's Inflation**

- Labour-intensive services have a higher weightage in the State's consumer price index



(CPI) basket when compared to the all-India basket and those of other peer States.

- Labour costs in Tamil Nadu are relatively high, affecting inflation.

#### **Government Measures to Mitigate Inflation**

- Subsidised electricity and transportation (help lower input costs).
- Universal Public Distribution System (PDS):
- Provides food commodities at subsidised prices.
- Shields the population from food inflation.
- Public transport initiatives like Magalir Vidiyal Payanam Thittam help absorb rising inflation.
- Rural inflation addressed through MGNREGS, despite reduced Union government allocations.
- Health expenses controlled through a robust public health system, supported by:
- Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

#### **Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme (TNUES)**

- According to the Economic Survey 2024-25, TNUES can contribute to employment and social security among socially and economically vulnerable households in urban parts of the State, particularly in town panchayats
- Modeled on MGNREGS, it aims to provide job opportunities for low and semi-skilled workers in urban local bodies.
- Women constitute 83% of the workforce under TNUES
- 22% are agricultural workers
- 25% are primary breadwinners
- 18% belong to female-headed households

#### **Employment Trends in Tamil Nadu**

- Currently benefits from a demographic

advantage with a peak working-age population.

- However, working-age population share is projected to decline from 66.4% in 2021 to 63.6% by 2036.

- Unemployment rate for individuals aged 15+ has been declining in both Tamil Nadu and India.

- The survey highlights the importance of TNUES in urban employment and the need for proactive policies to address the future decline in the working-age population.

#### **Tamil Nadu Budget 2025-26 – Archaeology & Museums**

##### **Archaeological Excavations in Tamil Nadu (2025-26)**

- New excavations at Keezhadi (Sivaganga), Pattanam (Thoothukudi), Karivalam (Tenkasi), Nagapattinam, Manikkollai (Cuddalore), Adichanur (Kallakurichi), Vellalur (Coimbatore), and Thelunganur (Salem).

- The journey in search of the cultural identities of ancient Tamils had also expanded to regions in the neighboring states: Palur (Odisha), Vengi (Andhra Pradesh), Maski (Karnataka).

- Advanced scientific analyses: Ancient DNA, metallurgy, pollen analysis, OSL dating.

- **Budget:** ₹7 crore for archaeological research.

- **Deep-Sea Archaeological Excavations:**

- Focus on Tamil maritime trade with Southeast Asia, Mediterranean, Arabian Peninsula, and the Roman Empire.

- First phase: Deep-sea excavation from Kaveripoompattinam to Nagapattinam.

##### **New Museums & Cultural Galleries:**

- Noyyal Museum (Erode, ₹22 crore): Highlights Kodumanal excavations.

- Naavaai Museum' (Ramanathapuram, ₹21 crore): Focuses on Pandya maritime trade (Sangam era).
- Indus Valley Cultural Gallery (Egmore Museum, Chennai): To mark 100 years of Indus Valley Civilization discovery.
- Tamil Cultural Museums in Mamallapuram & **Tiruvannamalai**: Showcasing Tamil heritage to global tourists.
- Egmore Museum Enhancements:
- Houses 2,000+ bronze statues made from Aimpon (five-metal alloy).
- New traditional architectural gallery for sculptural masterpieces.
- Budget: ₹40 crore.

### **Anbucholai Centres for Senior Citizens**

- The Tamil Nadu government will establish 25 Anbucholai centres (daycare centres for the elderly) to ensure the well-being of senior citizens
- It will be established in the Municipal Corporations, including Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Salem, Tiruppur, Erode, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Thanjavur, and Dindigul, with a financial allocation of ₹10 crore
- Each centre will provide various services, including day-care assistance, arrangements for essential medical care, and recreational activities, with the support of voluntary organisations

### **Dhanushkodi to be Declared as Greater Flamingo Sanctuary**

- Location: Dhanushkodi, at the tip of Rameswaram Island.
- Significance: Crucial stopover for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway

particularly the Greater Flamingo (state bird of Gujarat).

- Objective: Conservation of wetland birds and diverse ecosystems (sand dunes, marshes, mangroves).

### **Report: 'Blue Carbon Monitoring for Mangroves of Tamil Nadu'**

- Released by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University by Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Anna University
- Doubling of mangrove area due to new plantations + preservation efforts (2021: 4,500 hectares to 2024: 9,039 hectares)

#### **District-wise Contribution**

- **Tiruvarur**: Largest mangrove area – 2,142 h.a. (1,470 h.a. existing + 672 h.a. new plantations)
- **2nd : Thanjavur**: 2,063 h.a. (1,209 h.a. existing + 854 h.a. plantations) , 3rd : Cuddalore: 1,117 h.a., 4th : Nagapattinam: 1,021 h.a.
- **Lower-density mangroves** : Villupuram: 2.59 tonnes/h.a. , Tiruvallur: 13.1 tonnes/h.a.
- **Importance**: Mangroves help in carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and ecological stability.
- **Threat Identified** : Spread of invasive Prosopis juliflora in mangrove areas (Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tiruvallur).
- **Composition** : Existing mangroves: 59.9% (5,414 h.a.) and New plantations: 40.1% (3,625 h.a.)

### **Identity Cards for 54 Lakh Women in Self-Help Groups**

- Through the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation, 3,29,039 self-help groups have been formed in rural areas,

with 37,76,575 women members. In urban areas, there are 1,47,430 self-help groups with 15,98,144 women.

- In total, there are approximately 4.76 lakh self-help groups with about 54 lakh women.
- Identity cards for self-help groups are being distributed in two phases.
- Priorities for Identity Cards
- Permission to carry loads up to 25 kg without charge on urban and suburban buses.
- Additional 5% discount when purchasing Co-optex textiles.
- Priority in Cooperative, Food, and Consumer Protection Department loan schemes.
- Privilege to purchase Aavin products at discounted prices.
- 10% discount will be provided at internet service centers.

### **T.N.'s sex ratio at birth improved from 931 to 941 during 2021-2024**

- According to the State's Health Management Information System data, the sex ratio at birth was 931 during 2021-2022, and increased by seven points to 938 during 2022-2023.
- It was 941 during 2023-2024 and 940 during 2024-2025 [up to February 2025]
- Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per 1,000 males.
- The National Family Health Survey-5 (2020-2021) had put Tamil Nadu's sex ratio at birth for children born in the previous five years at 878, prompting health officials to dispute the figure in 2021.

### **Over 1,000 Years Old Temple Renovations**

- Rs. 300 crore has been allocated over three fiscal years for renovations of temples that are more than a thousand years old.

▪ Through this, along with user funds and temple funds, a total of Rs. 430 crore is being spent on consecration ceremonies (Kumbabishekam) for 49 temples.

- Currently, 507 thousand-year-old temples have been documented.
- This year, UNESCO award has been given to the Apatsahayesvarar Temple in Thukkachi, Kumbakonam.A

### **Former Archaeological Survey of India Director General's Statue Unveiled**

- The Chief Minister unveiled a statue of Sir John Hubert Marshall, former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, at the Egmore Museum complex at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

#### **About Sir John Hubert Marshall:**

- **Birth:** March 19, 1876 - August 17, 1958. (England)
- In 1902, at the age of 26, he took charge as the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- On September 20, 1924, he announced the discovery of the historically significant Indus Valley Civilization to the world.
- This announcement revolutionized the understanding of the history of the Indian subcontinent that had prevailed until then.

### **Tamil Nadu's financial situation shows gradual improvement**

- The proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure is moving up to 13% after it went down to 10.4% in 2017-18.
- Capital expenditure share in net public debt/borrowings is also rising.
- Fifteen years ago, 86% of public debt funded CapEx; it declined to 44% in 2021-22 but is expected to reach 55% next year.

### Tracking finances

A look at the trends in capital expenditure, revenue expenditure and net public debt over the years

Year	Capital expenditure	Revenue expenditure	Total	Net public	Proportion of Capital expenditure to net public debt (in %)	Proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure (in %)
2010-11	12,436	72,916	87,604	14,492	14.2	85.8
2014-15	17,803	128,828	150,950	24,592.66	11.8	72.4
2017-18	20,203	167,874	194,594	36,730.71	10.4	55
2021-22	37,011	254,030.42	294,682	84,747.75	12.56	43.7
2023-24	40,500	309,718	359,063	88,032.35	11.3	46
2024-25*	46,756	340,374	399,539	97,663.08	11.7	48
2025-26**	57,231	373,204	439,293	105,000.12	13	54.5

\*Revised Estimates \*\*Budget Estimate

### Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II

- During 2025-26, the programme will be implemented in 2,329 village panchayats.
- The Tamil Nadu government has granted administrative sanction for allocation of ₹1,087 crore for implementing 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam'
- The programme is being implemented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- The programme inducted in 2006 aims to improve the overall basic infrastructure facilities in all village panchayats in a phased manner.
- The initiative includes rejuvenating ponds, upgrading streets and lanes, installing streetlights, and providing livelihood and marketing facilities.
- Block-level committees will decide the works to be taken up in a village panchayat.
- "The shortlisted works must be approved by a Special Grama Sabha."
- A minimum of 30% funds were to be allocated for SC/ST habitation areas.

### Regulations for Drug Rehabilitation Centers

- The Tamil Nadu government has instructed that people addicted to drugs should only be admitted to rehabilitation centers after receiving intensive in-depth treatment under the supervision of a psychiatrist.
- After one week of intensive treatment, the patient will qualify for rehabilitation treatment.

Accordingly, psychological treatments and recovery therapies can be provided to them in rehabilitation centers.

- These can be categorized as Integrated Drug Recovery Centers and Rehabilitation Centers. Rehabilitation centers should provide psychological recovery treatments. Integrated centers must have a doctor and nurse on duty 24 hours a day.
- A psychological counselor should also be employed there. In rehabilitation centers, a psychiatrist should examine and treat patients at least once a week. Similarly, an MBBS doctor and nurse must be on duty daily.
- CCTV cameras are mandatory in rehabilitation centers. No patients who have not received primary intensive treatment should be admitted to rehabilitation centers.
- Patients who are unwilling to come to the centers voluntarily may be admitted for treatment with the consent of their relatives when they face severe physical harm. Information about this must be communicated to the Mental Health Treatment Board.

### **Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0**

- The Tamil Nadu government will implement Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0 at a cost of ₹1,000 crore, with assistance from the World Bank, in 120 blocks across the State,

- Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department will conduct the 2025 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai establishing a Policy and Governance Experiential Centre, an Economics and Statistics Wing in government departments for evidence-based policy making, a specialised IT unit at the headquarters of the Economics and Statistics Department, modernisation of the department

### **Vazhndhu Kattuvom**

- The Vazhndhu Kattuvom Project (VKP), formerly known as the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP), launched on 2017

#### **Project Goals:**

- Promote rural enterprises.
- Enable access to finance.
- Create employment opportunities.
- Build sustainability and prosperity in rural communities.

#### **Implementation:**

- Implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.
- Operates in 120 blocks across 31 districts of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Funding:**

- Funded by the World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu in a 70:30 ratio.

## TAMIL NADU BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-26

### Cultural Development

#### Tamil Development

- **Translation Projects:** ₹133 lakh for spreading Thiruvalluvar's works globally
- **Book Translations:** ₹10 crore to translate 500 books to English over 5 years (100 books annually)
- **Digitization:** ₹crore for digitizing ancient Tamil palm-leaf manuscripts and rare publications
- **Tamil Diaspora Education:** ₹10 crore for Tamil language and folk arts classes for Non-Resident Tamils
- **World Tamil Olympiad:** Annual competition to promote classical Tamil culture globally
- **Agaram Museum of Languages:** New museum at Madurai World Tamil Sangam campus

#### Culture & Heritage

- **New Museums:**
  - 'Noyyal Museum' in Erode district (₹22 crore)
  - 'Naavaai Museum' in Ramanathapuram district (₹21 crore)
  - 'Indus Valley Cultural Gallery' at Egmore Museum, Chennai
- **Museum Development:** ₹40 crore for a traditional architectural design gallery
- **Temple Restoration:** ₹125 crore for restoring temples over 1,000 years old
- **Heritage Structures:** ₹150 crore for renovating 17 heritage buildings

### Infrastructure Development

#### Rural Development

- **Kalaigiar Kanavu Illam:** Construction of 1 lakh additional houses at ₹3,500 crore

#### Municipal Administration

- **Urban Development:** ₹2,000 crore for Kalaigiar Nagarpura Mempattu Thittam

#### Waste Management:

- Bio CNG plant, composting plant, and waste-to-energy facilities at Kodungaiyur (₹3,450 crore)
- Waste to Energy Plant in Tambaram Corporation

#### Water Supply:

- Ring Main Pipeline Project for Chennai
- Combined Water Supply Schemes in multiple districts

### Transport & Connectivity

- **Semi-High-Speed Rail:** Feasibility studies for 160 kmph corridors:
  - Chennai-Villupuram (167 km)
  - Chennai-Vellore (140 km)
  - Coimbatore-Salem (185 km)
- **New Airport:** Development in Rameshwaram area, Ramanathapuram district
- **Ropeway Studies:** For Mamallapuram, Udhamandalam, and Kodaikanal

### Economic Growth & Employment

#### Industries & Manufacturing

- **Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission-2030:** ₹500 crore over five years
- **Semiconductor Manufacturing:**
  - Semiconductor Fabless Lab in Chennai (₹100 crore)
  - Semiconductor parks in Sullur and Palladam (100 acres each)
- **IT Infrastructure:**
  - Tidel Park in Hosur (□400 crore)
  - Mini-Tidel Park in Virudhunagar
  - 'Hosur Knowledge Corridor' development

#### Industrial Parks:

- Two footwear parks (₹250 crore, creating 20,000 jobs)



- Engineering and fabrication park in Trichy (250 acres)
- MMF and Technical Textiles Industrial Park in Thoothukudi
- New industrial parks in Cuddalore (500 acres) and Pudukottai (200 acres)

#### Centers of Excellence:

- Advanced pump motor manufacturing in Coimbatore
- Foundry in Coimbatore
- Bioscience park near Chennai

- New Policies: 'Tamil Nadu Maritime Transport Manufacturing Policy 2025'

#### MSME Sector

- SIDCO Industrial Estates: 9 new industrial estates on 398 acres (₹366 crore)
- Common Facility Centers: ₹50 crore for MSMEs in specialized sectors

#### Startups & IT

- Space Tech Fund: ₹10 crore allocation
- CM Spaces: Mudhalvar Padaippagam at 30 locations (₹5 crore each)
- AVGC-XR Hub: ₹50 crore for center of excellence in Chennai
- Data Services: ₹10 crore for 'Tamil Nadu StartUp Data Server Services Scheme'

#### Labor Welfare

##### ITI Expansion:

- 10 new Government ITIs (₹152 crore)
- 7 new Government ITIs with hostel facilities (₹148 crore)
- Healthcare for Workers: Master Health Checkup for construction workers above 40

##### Gig Workers Support:

- ₹20,000 subsidy for 2,000 workers to purchase e-scooters
- Group insurance scheme for accident compensation

#### Green Energy & Climate Change

##### Pumped Storage Projects:

- 1,100 MW in Vellimalai area
- 1,800 MW in Aliyar area
- Total investment: ₹11,721 crore (PPP mode)
- Battery Storage: 4,000 MWhr Battery Energy Storage System
- Renewable Energy Policy: New Integrated Renewable Energy Policy
- Environmental Initiatives:
  - Marine Resource Foundation (₹50 crore)
  - Blue Flag certification for 6 beaches (₹24 crore)
  - Raptors Research Foundation
  - Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi
- 1,000 hectare biodiversity park in Melchengam
- Forest road upgrades (₹250 crore)

#### Education & Human Resource Development

##### School Education

- Higher Education Awareness: 'Naan Mudhalvan-Kalloori Kanavu' program
- School Upgrades: 14 high schools in remote hilly regions to higher secondary schools
- New Libraries: 3 libraries with 1 lakh books each in Salem, Cuddalore, and Tirunelveli

##### Higher Education

- University Excellence: Plan to place Anna University among top 10 institutions in India and top 150 globally

##### New Courses:

- Degree courses in AI, Cyber Security, Advanced Manufacturing, Robotics, EVs
- Diploma courses in emerging technologies

- Capacity Expansion: 15,000 additional seats in Government Arts and Science Colleges

- Infrastructure Development: ₹300 crore under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme.

- New Colleges: Government Arts and Science Colleges in 10 locations
- Research Centers: ₹100 crore for two Basic Sciences and Mathematics Research Centers
- **Assistive Devices:** ₹125 crore for modern assistive technologies
- **Political Representation:** Bill for ensuring representation in local government bodies

### Skill Development

- Civil Services Support: ₹50,000 incentive for candidates who clear main examination
- Foreign Education: ₹10 crore for scholarships to prestigious universities abroad
- Educational Loans: ₹2,500 crore for one lakh college students

### Social Welfare

#### Women Welfare

- **Self-Help Groups:**
  - Formation of 10,000 new SHGs
  - ₹37,000 crore bank loans target
- Working Women's Hostels: 'Thozhi' hostels in 10 more locations (₹77 crore)
- Student Hostels: Three girl student hostels accommodating 1,000 students each (₹275 crore)

#### Child Welfare

- Breakfast Scheme Expansion: To include Government aided schools (3.14 lakh additional students)
- Anganwadi Infrastructure: 500 new buildings (₹83 crore)

#### Senior Citizen Welfare

- Anbucholai Centers: 25 centers in Municipal Corporations (₹10 crore)

#### Differently Abled Welfare

- Employment Incentives: ₹2,000 per month wage subsidy for firms employing at least 10 differently-abled persons
- Service Centers: 82 subdivision-level and 400 block-level Integrated Service Centers (₹60 crore)

### Welfare of Marginalized Communities

#### Education Support:

- ₹65 crore for Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Assistance Scheme
- Monthly scholarship extension to transgender students

#### Economic Empowerment:

- 'Nannilam' Women Land Ownership Scheme (₹20 crore)
- 'Tholkudi' scheme for tribal communities (₹250 crore annually)

- Social Harmony: Awards for 10 village panchayats promoting harmony
- Hostel Upgrades: Refurbishment of college student hostels for BC, MBC, and DNT students

#### Religious Minorities Support:

- ₹10 crore for heritage mosques and dargahs
- ₹10 crore for heritage churches

- **Orphan Support:** ₹2,000 monthly stipend under Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Thittam

### Health & Family Welfare

#### Cancer Care:

- Upgrade of Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital (800 beds)
  - ₹110 crore for early cancer detection equipment
  - HPV vaccination for girls aged 14 years

- **Healthcare Infrastructure:** Various upgrades and expansions of medical facilities

**Agriculture & Allied Sectors**▪ **Animal Husbandry**

- Bovine Breeding Policy: New policy formulation
- Animal Birth Control: Facilities in 100 veterinary hospitals (₹20 crore)

▪ **Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare**

- Infrastructure: Fish landing centers and net mending facilities across coastal districts

▪ **Dairy Development**▪ **Modernization:**

- Effluent treatment plant in Salem (₹15 crore)
- Erode dairy modernization (₹10 crore)
- Advanced equipment for Chennai dairies (₹5 crore)
- Butter chiplet and mini pouch packing in Thiruvannamalai (₹10 crore)
- **Handlooms & Textiles**
- Powerloom Modernization: ₹50 crore for upgrading conventional powerlooms
- Handloom Support: ₹10 crore corpus fund for working capital
- Technical Textiles: ₹15 crore for Tamil Nadu Technical Textile Mission

**Administrative Reforms****Financial Management**

- Priority Sector Lending: ₹9.5 lakh crore target

- Unified Lending Interface: Technology implementation with RBI Innovation Hub

- GSDP Measurement: Large-scale enterprise surveys for accurate sector-wise data

- Work Management: Implementation of Comprehensive Work Management System

**Registration & Revenue**▪ **Patta Distribution:**

- 5 lakh house site pattas to be issued
- Relaxation of restrictions for eligible families in certain areas

- **Mapping Technology:** High-Resolution Large-Scale Map (HRLM) development

**Government Employees Welfare**

- **Job Creation:** Plans to fill 40,000 more positions
- **Housing:** 190 Type C quarters in Chennai (₹110 crore)
- **Insurance Benefits:**
  - ₹1 crore accident insurance
  - ₹10 lakh term life insurance
  - Marriage and education assistance for families of deceased employees

**Disaster Management**

- **Heat Wave Management:** Action plans for 11 cities
- **Disaster Management Institute:** ₹50 crore for Tamil Nadu State Institute of Disaster Management

Sector	Scheme/Initiative	Budget Allocation	Key Details
Tamil Development	Vanpughazh Valluvam Translation Project	Rs. 133 lakh	Translation to be completed within 3 years
	Book Translation Program	Rs. 10 crore	100 books annually, 500 books in 5 years
	Digitization of Tamil manuscripts	Rs. 2 crore	For ancient palm-leaf manuscripts, rare publications
	Non-Resident Tamils Education	Rs. 10 crore	In-person classes through Welfare Board, 100 teachers
	World Tamil Olympiad	-	Annual competition for Tamil youths globally
	Agaram - Museum of Languages	-	To be established at Madurai World Tamil Sangam
Culture	Noyyal Museum	Rs. 22 crore	In Erode district, focusing on Kodumanal excavations
	Naavaai Museum	Rs. 21 crore	In Ramanathapuram, highlighting Pandya maritime trade
	Indus Valley Cultural Gallery	-	At Egmore Museum, Chennai
	Traditional Architecture Gallery	Rs. 40 crore	Within museum complex
Rural Development	Kalaignar Kanavu Illam	Rs. 3,500 crore	1 lakh additional houses in 2025-26
	Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam	Rs. 2,200 crore	6,100 km of rural roads improvement
	Housing Reconstruction	Rs. 600 crore	25,000 new houses for dilapidated pre-2001 homes

Balanced Growth	New City Development	-	2,000 acres near Chennai
	Global City Project	-	First phase to commence by TIDCO
Women Welfare	SHG Formation	Rs. 37,000 crore	10,000 new SHGs, bank loans target
	Thozhi Working Women's Hostels	Rs. 77 crore	10 new locations, benefiting 800 women
	Girl Student Hostels	Rs. 275 crore	3 hostels in major cities, 1,000 students each
Senior Citizen Welfare	Anbucholai Centres	Rs. 10 crore	25 centres in Municipal Corporations
Child Welfare	Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme	-	Expansion to Govt-aided urban schools
	Anganwadi Buildings	Rs. 83 crore	500 new buildings
School Education	Computer Lab Upgrades	Rs. 160 crore	2,000 schools
	Hi-tech Lab Upgrades	Rs. 56 crore	880 schools
	Smart Classrooms	Rs. 65 crore	2,676 Government schools
	Teacher Recruitment	-	1,721 PG teachers, 841 graduate teachers
	Naan Mudhalvan-Kalloori Kanavu	-	Scholarship awareness in 500 schools
Higher Education	Anna University Development	-	Roadmap to reach top 10 in India, top 150 globally
	State Universities Block Grant	Rs. 700 crore	Enhanced funding
	University Development Corpus Fund	Rs. 200 crore	For academic performance enhancement
	Industrial Research & Innovation Fund	Rs. 25 crore	For Industry-Academia Partnership
	Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development	Rs. 300 crore	For infrastructure in government colleges
	New Government Arts & Science Colleges	-	10 new locations across Tamil Nadu
	Basic Sciences Research Centres	Rs. 100 crore	Two centres in Chennai and Coimbatore

Naan Mudalvan	UPSC Interview Preparation	Rs. 50,000 per candidate	For those who pass main examination
	Overseas Education Scholarships	Rs. 10 crore	For postgraduate and research studies
	Educational Loans	Rs. 2,500 crore	For one lakh college students
Industries	Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission-2030	Rs. 500 crore	Five-year implementation
	Semiconductor Fabless Lab	Rs. 100 crore	To be established in Chennai
	Tidel Park Development	Rs. 400 crore	In Hosur, 5 lakh sq. ft. area
	Footwear Parks	Rs. 250 crore	In Melur and Cuddalore, creating 20,000 jobs
Climate Change	Marine Resource Foundation	Rs. 50 crore	Initial funding
	Blue Flag Beach Certification	Rs. 24 crore	For six beaches
	Raptors Research Foundation	-	For conservation strategies
	Forest Road Upgrades	Rs. 250 crore	500 km of forest roads
Transport	Electric Buses Deployment	-	1,125 buses in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai
	Multimodal Transport Terminals	Rs. 100 crore	In Guindy and Washermanpet areas
	State Transport Undertakings Incentive	Rs. 2,000 crore	Performance-linked incentives
Social Welfare	Thayumanavar Thittam	Rs. 2,000 monthly	For orphaned children raised by relatives
	Temple Restoration	Rs. 125 crore	For thousand-year-old temples
	Nannilam Women Land Ownership	Rs. 20 crore	For SC/ST women agricultural workers
	Tholkudi Scheme	Rs. 250 crore annually	Rs. 1,000 crore over four years
	Social Harmony Panchayat Award	-	For 10 village panchayats
	Sri Lankan Tamil Housing	Rs. 206 crore	3,000 additional houses



## TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2025-26

- The Tamil Nadu government unveiled its fifth exclusive agriculture budget increasing the total allocation for agriculture and allied sectors by 8 per cent for 2025-26
- The state allocated ₹45,661 crore up from ₹42,282 crore in the previous year.
- The Agriculture Budget 2025-26 focuses on boosting farmers' income while expanding into crop diversification, organic farming, mechanization, and nutrition initiatives.
- Special priority is given to schemes benefiting SC/ST communities.
- State's gross cropped area had increased from 146.77 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 151 lakh acres in 2023-24, while the double-cropped area grew from 29.74 lakh acres to 33.60 lakh acres.
- The state has also made significant advancements in productivity, ranking first in ragi production, second in maize, oilseeds, and sugarcane, and third in groundnut and minor millets at the national level.
- To support food security, the government has increased the food subsidy allocation from ₹10,500 crore in the previous year to ₹12,500 crore in 2025-26.
- Additionally, ₹525 crore has been earmarked to incentivize paddy procurement.
- For farmers' electricity needs, the state will provide ₹8,186 crore to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation to ensure free electricity connections, an increase from ₹6,962.93 crore in 2024-25.
- For sugarcane farmers, the government has introduced a ₹349 per metric ton (MT) incentive over the central government's Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), bringing the total price to ₹3,500 per MT.
- This initiative is expected to benefit 1.3 lakh farmers, with an allocation of ₹297 crore.
- The state is also promoting agricultural mechanization, with plans to establish 130 custom hiring centers with a subsidy of ₹10.5 crore.
- Additionally, 5,000 agricultural machines and implements will be provided to villages under the **Kalaigarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme**.
- The Agricultural Mechanization scheme will be implemented at an outlay of ₹215.80 crore, benefiting 17,000 farmers.
- Subsidies for small paddy transplanters will be increased from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹1.7 lakh, while subsidies for power weeders will rise from ₹63,000 to ₹85,000.
- Recognising the growing number of agriculture graduates in the state, the government will establish **1,000 Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres**.
- Each centre, costing ₹10-20 lakh, will receive a 30 per cent subsidy of ₹3-6 lakh. A total of ₹42 crore has been allocated for this initiative, which aims to provide farmers with seeds, fertilisers, expert guidance, and modern agricultural techniques.

### IMPORTANT SCHEMES

- **Nutrition Farming Mission:** ₹125 crore allocated to enhance nutritional security and farmers' income.

- **Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom Scheme:** ₹142 crore allocated for 15 key components.
- **Natural Farming Promotion:** ₹12 crore to support 7,500 farmers across 37 districts.
- **Seed Farms & Processing Units:** ₹250 crore for seed farms and ₹15.05 crore for seven State Seed Processing Units.
- **Crop Insurance Scheme:** ₹841 crore allocated as state share of premium subsidy for 35 lakh acres
- **Cooperative Crop Loans:** ₹17,000 crore to support agricultural credit needs.
- **Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy:** to be unveiled to encourage the cultivation of high-value trees and streamline timber regulations
- **International Exposure for Farmers:** ₹2 crore to facilitate visits to Japan, China, and Vietnam for 100 progressive farmers.
- **Tamil Nadu Cashew Board:** to be set up at an outlay of ₹10 crore to support cashew farmers and rural workers.
- **Solar Pumpsets for Farmers:** ₹24 crore to install solar pumps for 1,000 farmers, with up to 70 per cent subsidy.
- **Mini Dairy Scheme:** Supporting 5,000 milk producers with 4 per cent interest subvention for steady income.

