

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

MARCH 2025 - PART 1



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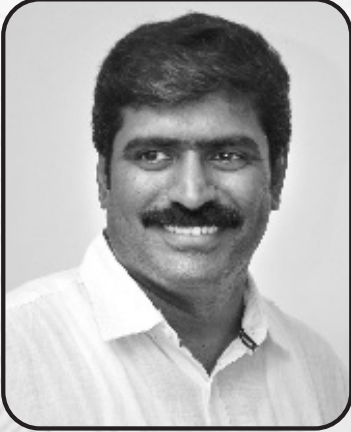
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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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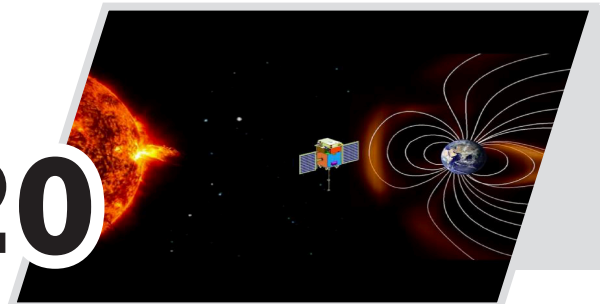


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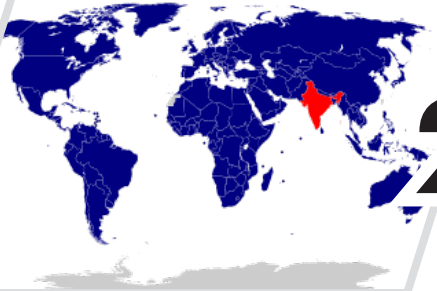
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1. HISTORY



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
March 4	54th Anniversary of National Safety Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is celebrated every year on March 4.Theme - Safety & Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat.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.The objective was to raise awareness about industrial safety and reduce accidents in factories, construction sites, and other hazardous workplaces.
March 8	International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Observed on March 8Theme for IWD - "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"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 DayThis conference is being organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

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%).
- This radar has been designed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- It has the capability to accurately monitor attacks from high-speed combat aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and helicopters.

Exercise Dharma Guardian

- The 6th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian, a bilateral military exercise between India and Japan, successfully concluded in Japan.
- It is an annual exercise conducted alternately in India and Japan.
- It is to enhancing combat readiness through counter-terrorism training in urban terrain and including United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) drills.
- Other India-Japan Multilateral Exercises
 - Veer Guardian (air force),
 - SHINYUU Maitri (air force),
 - JIMEX (naval),
 - Malabar (naval) (along with Australia and the US).

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.

Astra Missile

- Astra Missile was successfully test-fired from the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) AF MK1 prototype off the Odisha coast.
- It is an advanced Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) designed for fighter aircraft.
- It enables aircraft to engage targets beyond 100 km without direct visual contact
- Developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) , India

1.3 PLACES IN NEWS

Jalanatheswarar Temple

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

About the Jalanatheswarar Temple

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

1.4 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.
- 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).

Kalaigarnar 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 Kalaigarnar 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'.

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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

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.)

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
- Kalaigarin 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.

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.

Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat

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
- 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).

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 (*Nilssonia leithii*) – Endangered.
- 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).
- 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).

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

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
- 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).
- **IUCN Status :** Vulnerable (reclassification of the Asiatic lion from endangered to vulnerable in 2024).
- 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.
- **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).
- 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

- 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 Park

- 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,

3.2 MISCELLANEOUS

Tribes in news - Kuki-Zos

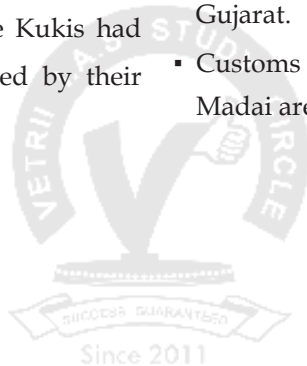
- Ethnic tribal group inhabiting the hilly regions of Manipur, Mizoram, and other northeastern states of India except Arunachal Pradesh.
- They urged the Centre to create a separate administration in the wake of the violent clashes between their community and the Meiteis.

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. Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 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).



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)s

- **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.
- 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.

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
- 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.

Successful Launch of Twin Spacecraft

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.

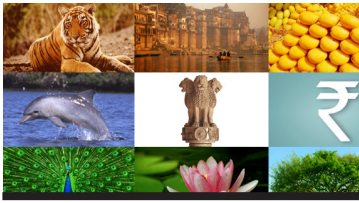
- India's initiative

- 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





6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

‘One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)’

- It is an initiative to standardize 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.



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.



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.
- 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%).

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.

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 (Thanjavur), Karivalamvanthanallur (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.

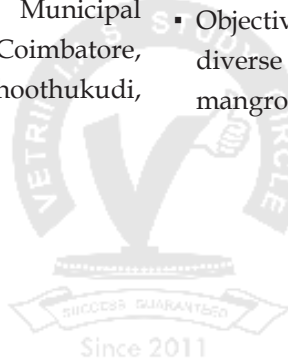
- Tamil Cultural Museums in Mamallapuram & **Tiruvannamalai**: Showcasing Tamil heritage to global tourists.
- Egmore Museum Enhancements:
- Houses 2,000+ bronze statues made from Aimpon (five-metal alloy).
- New traditional architectural gallery for sculptural masterpieces.
- Budget: ₹40 crore.

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).



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
Municipal Administration	Kalaignar Nagarpura Mempattu Thittam	Rs. 2,000 crore	For completing sanctioned works
	Urban Road Upgradation	Rs. 3,750 crore	6,483 km of roads in Corporations, Municipalities
	Integrated Solid Waste Management	Rs. 3,450 crore	Bio CNG plant, composting plant, etc. in Kodungaiyur
	Riverside Development Works	Rs. 400 crore	In 5 corporations including Trichy, Madurai
	Ring Main Pipeline Project	-	For equitable water distribution in Chennai
	Combined Water Supply Schemes	Rs. 6,244 crore	Various districts including Pudukottai, Mayiladuthurai

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