

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JULY 2025 - PART 2



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

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

Branches

SALEM

No. 189/1, Meyanoor Road,
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Opp. Venkateshwara Complex
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St. Joseph College)
Trichy - 620 002.
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MADURAI

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

KOVILPATTI

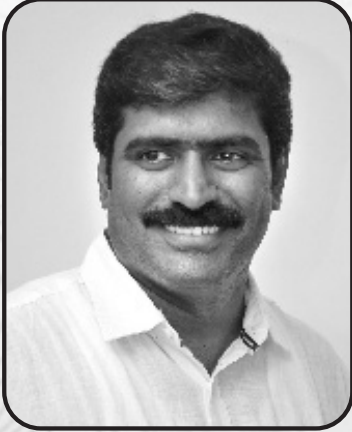
No. 15, Kathiresan Kovil Road
Behind Kaliamma Temple
Kovilpatti - 628 501.
**Ph: 90037 90335
81222 80685**

TIRUVANNAMALAI

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

www.vetriias.com

Preface



M. SHUNMUGAM

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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

Phone : 044-2626 5326

98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

E-mail : enquiry@vetriias.com

Web : www.vetriias.com

INDEX

SCIENCE

1.	Protostar	01
2.	BioEmu	01
3.	Hydrogen Train Test Success.....	01
4.	Low-Cost Medicine Discovery for Sickle Cell Anemia	01
5.	Genome-Edited Rice Varieties	01
6.	Axiom-4 crew return	02
7.	NISAR - First joint satellite of NASA and ISRO	02
8.	Matsya-6000 test boosts Samudrayaan	02

GEOGRAPHY

1.	Onge tribe	03
2.	Artificial rain	03
3.	WHO Launches Science and Policy Summaries (SPS) on Air Pollution and Health	03
4.	Legal Framework for Meteorological Services – IMD	03
5.	Doklam	04

INDIAN POLITY

1.	National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025	05
2.	India's linguistic secularism	05
3.	Temple entry cannot be denied based on caste in a country governed by rule of law- Supreme Court	05
4.	The 14th Vice-President of India submits his resignation to President	06
5.	Types of Rights	06
6.	Madras High Court's Verdict on FIR Registration Under SC/ST Act	07
7.	National Cooperation Policy 2025	07
8.	"India Targets 90% 5G Coverage by 2030"	08
9.	POSH Act 2013	08
10.	Employment in India Rises to 64.33 Crores	08
11.	Vice President of India	08
12.	President's Rule in Manipur Extended for Another 6 Months	09
13.	Deputy President Election and Qualifications	09
14.	National Anti-Doping Bill - 2025	09

INDIAN ECONOMY

1.	Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) dividends to Centre almost double since 2020	10
2.	Indian Tea Exports See a Rise	10
3.	Index of eight core industries	10

TAMIL NADU

1.	T.N. government sanctions Rs.110 crore to strengthen cancer diagnosis, treatment	11
2.	Excavations at Porpanaikottai	11
3.	Nimirnthu Nil initiative	11

4.	Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC)	11
5.	Viceroy's during Rajendra Chola Period	12
6.	A coin attributed to Rajendra calls him 'Sri Raja Rajendra'	12
7.	Gangaikonda Cholapuram	12
8.	National Level Clean City: Chennai Gets 38th Position	12
9.	Marungur archaeological excavation	13
10.	e-Sakshya App	13
11.	Temples of Social Justice	13
12.	"Ungaludan Stalin" Scheme Website- Operating Entirely in Tamil	14
13.	Tamil Nadu Government's loan and cooperative initiatives	14
14.	World Police and Fire Games – 2025	15
15.	India's First Hornbill conservation centre at Anamalai	15
16.	54th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court	16
17.	Tamil Nadu's Endangered Species Conservation Initiative	16
18.	Rs.12-cr. Project to Develop Chola Gangam lake	16
19.	T.N. ranks second in per capita Net State Domestic Product	16
20.	Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary	16
21.	TN to host one of five carbon capture testbeds for cement industry	17
22.	Tamil Nadu Government Must Implement Forest Rights Act	17
23.	Agaramuthali Iyakkagam	18
24.	Keeladi Excavation Report	18
25.	Medical Testing Quality Assurance Laboratory	18
26.	'TN SPARK' New Program for Classes 6-9 Students	18
27.	Khelo India Centers	19
28.	New Quality Assurance Lab for Government Health Facilities – Tamil Nadu.....	19

NATIONAL - NEWS

1.	India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project	20
2.	India's Clean Energy Progress	20
3.	World's First Rain Museum	20
4.	44th Foundation Day celebrations of NABARD	20
5.	Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards	21
6.	National workshop on Jain Manuscriptology	21
7.	NITI Aayog on Poverty Reduction	21
8.	Kashi Declaration	22
9.	Meri Panchayat App	22
10.	World Food India event	22

NATIONAL SCHEMES

1.	PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana	23
2.	Skill India Mission	23
3.	SASCI Scheme	23

4.	PM-Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)	24
5.	Jal Jeevan Mission	24
6.	100-Day Employment Scheme Fund Release	24
7.	Amrit Bharat Station Scheme	24

REPORTS AND INDICES

1.	Periodic Labour Force Survey	25
2.	Best Cities for Students: Chennai Ranks 128th	25
3.	'Swachh Survekshan' cleanliness survey	25
4.	"Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" – World Bank	26
5.	Groundwater Overexploitation in Tamil Nadu	26
	Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) Report	

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1.	"Swachh Survekshan 2024-25" awards	26
----	--	----

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.	AI Appreciation Day	27
2.	Tamil Nadu Day 2025	28
3.	National Flag Day/ Tiranga Adoption Day	27
4.	Income Tax Day – July 24	27
5.	World Mangrove Day	27
6.	World Youth Skills Day	27

DEFENCE

1.	Akash Prime 28	28
2.	DRDO Successfully Tests Air-to-Ground Missile via Drone	28

SPORTS AND GAMES

1.	Fourth ASF Asian surfing championships	28
2.	National Sports Administration Bill	28

INTERNATIONAL

1.	Shanghai Cooperation Organization	29
2.	lobal Shipping- Decarbonisation Goal	29
3.	Green Fuel Production	29
4.	India-EFTA Trade Agreement to be Implemented from October 1	29
5.	China Begins Construction of World's Largest Dam across Brahmaputra River in Tibet	30
6.	India-UK Trade Agreement	30
7.	Pakistan Resolution in UN Security Council	30
8.	CETA Free Trade Agreement	30
9.	India & Maldives Celebrate 60 Years of Friendship With Stunning Stamp Release	31

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1.	Tamil novels deal with the rule of Rajendra Chola	31
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MISCELLANEOUS

1.	Tent City	31
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GENERAL SCIENCE

Protostar

- A team of researchers at the IIST, Thiruvananthapuram, recently discovered radio emission with a special property known as circular polarisation near a massive young protostar that is still forming about 4,500 light-years from Earth.
- A protostar is an early stage in the star formation process.
- It is a large mass of gas and dust formed as a result of the contraction of a giant molecular cloud in the interstellar medium.
- Protostars are usually surrounded by dust, which blocks the light that they emit, so they are difficult to observe in the visible spectrum.

BioEmu

- BioEmu is a deep learning system developed by Microsoft, Rice University, and Freie Universität.
- It models protein flexibility at high resolution and large scale, unlike traditional methods.
- AlphaFold predicts a single stable structure of a protein.
- BioEmu predicts the entire range of conformations a protein can adopt – called the equilibrium ensemble.
- Protein movement is essential for function – such as enzyme activation, cell signalling, and drug binding.
- BioEmu reveals dynamic shapes, like cryptic pockets (temporary drug binding sites).

Hydrogen Train Test Success

- Chennai ICF factory has achieved a milestone by successfully testing a hydrogen-powered train engine.
- "For the first time in India, a hydrogen-powered train has been successfully tested at Chennai ICF.
- India is developing 1,200 HP capacity hydrogen train engine technology.
- Under the "Hydrogen for Heritage Cities" scheme, plans are in place to operate 35 hydrogen trains.

Low-Cost Medicine Discovery for Sickle Cell Anemia

- The rare disease 'Sickle Cell Anemia' affects tribal populations in states including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra.
- We have now discovered 'PCR' technology that can detect this disease and provide results within 20 minutes.
- The defective gene in the body will be corrected and reintroduced into the body.
- Through this, one can live a lifetime without needing medication.

Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

- India has over **500 traditional rice varieties** that can withstand drought and climate change.
- These improved rice varieties have been named '**DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)**' and '**Pusa DST Rice 1**'.
- These varieties are considered climate-smart and climate-resilient. **India has become the first country in the world** to develop genome-edited or GE rice varieties.
- The **first variety, DRR Dhan 100 Kamala**, derived from Samba Mahsuri, matures 15-20

days earlier and yields 25% more production. The **second variety**, Pusa DST Rice 1, is salinity and alkalinity tolerant and yields **30% higher production** under saline conditions.

SPACE

Axiom-4 crew return

- The SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, piloted by Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego at 3:01 p.m. IST (2:31 a.m. PT) on July 15, 2025.
- The crew spent 18 days on the International Space Station conducting 60 scientific studies across 31 countries.
- Shukla became the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984)
- Shukla became the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) via a private spaceflight, marking a significant milestone in India's space diplomacy and future missions.
- India has completed the human-rating of its HLV-M3 rocket and continues progress on its indigenous crew module for Gaganyaan.
- The mission strengthens India's Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) space ambitions and contributes to international collaboration in space exploration.

ISRO's 7 Studies

- Tissue regeneration, seed germination, blue-green algae cultivation, radiation effects, human physiology, including microgravity and water bubbles - Shukla successfully conducted seven major microgravity-related studies provided by ISRO.
- He has brought back green gram (mung bean) and fenugreek seeds that sprouted in space, along with other samples.
- These seeds are set to undergo various studies in the next phase.

- Axiom 4 – Launched on June 25, 2025 (Falcon 9, Kennedy Space Center, USA).

NISAR - First joint satellite of NASA and ISRO

- NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) is the first joint satellite developed by NASA and ISRO.
- Scheduled to be launched on July 30.
- The GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit.
- NISAR satellite, weighing 2,392 kg, is a unique earth observation satellite.
- It is the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar – the NASA's L-band and the ISRO's S-band.
- NISAR will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time.
- NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics.
- Applications of NISAR include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources and disaster response.

Matsya-6000 test boosts Samudrayaan

- India's first manned ocean mission, Samudrayaan, has progressed significantly.
- ISRO successfully tested the personnel sphere of the Matsya-6000 submersible.
- **Key Features of Matsya-6000 Sphere**
 - Material: Titanium-alloy
 - Crew Capacity: 3 members
 - Maximum Depth: 6,000 metres underwater
- For the first time in India, high-penetration Electron Beam Welding (EBW) was used.

GEOGRAPHY

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Onge tribe

- For the first time, nine Onge tribal children have cleared the Class 10 exam, with their admissions formalised and classes beginning on July 15.
- Onges are one of the most primitive tribes in India. They belong to the Negrito racial stock.
- They inhabit Little Andaman Island, the most southerly island in the Andaman archipelago.
- They are semi-nomadic tribes and fully dependent on the food provided by nature.
- The Onge speak their own language, which has no script.
- The religion of the Onges is simple animism. Neither ceremonial worship nor any kind of propitiation is practiced by them. They believe in different classes of spirits-spirits of the wood, the sea, disease, storm, and ancestors.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Artificial rain

- Artificial rain may fill Jaipur's Ramgarh dam after 20 years.
- Artificial rain will be created using drones and AI technology.
- Artificial rain (cloud seeding), is a weather modification technique that aims to increase precipitation by dispersing substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds.
- Substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride are dispersed into clouds

using aircraft, rockets, or ground generators to encourage the formation of raindrops.

- Ramgarh Dam, located near Jaipur, is a historic structure built by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh in 1903.

WHO Launches Science and Policy Summaries (SPS) on Air Pollution and Health

- WHO launched a new series of **Science and Policy Summaries (SPS)** to tackle the global health impacts of **air pollution and its significant health impacts**, especially in **low-and middle-income countries**.
- Released after the **Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health** (March 2025, Cartagena, Colombia).

Global Concern

- Air pollution is a **major risk factor for noncommunicable diseases**.
- In 2021, around **6.4 million deaths** were linked to **particulate matter exposure**.
- 93% of these deaths occurred in **low-and middle-income countries**.

Legal Framework for Meteorological Services – IMD

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** has constituted the committee to formulate a legal framework for meteorological services in India.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Defining** the roles, responsibilities, and structure of agencies like the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
 - Addressing legal gaps in meteorological governance.
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** mandates all member countries to enact

legislation or policies for hydro-meteorological services.

GEOGRAPHICAL LANDMARKS

Doklam

- Doklam is a plateau in the Chumbi Valley at the tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China.
- It is located 68 km east of Gangtok, Sikkim, at an altitude of 13,780 feet.
- Doklam is being opened as a battlefield tourism site starting September 2025.
- Initiative by the Defence Ministry under the Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan scheme.

Other Battlefield Sites in Sikkim:

- Nathu La (already a tourist spot; 58 km from Gangtok).
- Cho La, site of 1967 clashes between Indian and Chinese troops.
- All three are being developed with cafeterias, restrooms, amenities, and parking in collaboration with the Indian Army.

Sikkim's Status:

- Was an Indian protectorate until 1975.
- Became India's 22nd State after a referendum in May 1975.

About India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **Established:** In 1875, the IMD is the National Meteorological Service of India.
- **Ministry:** operating under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi. IMD has **6 Regional Meteorological Centres:** Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Guwahati.
- IMD is also **one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.**
- However, no law currently governs its structure or responsibilities.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, which was founded in 1873.
- Established in 1950, WMO became the **specialized agency of the UN** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.

INDIAN POLITY

National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

- NSP 2025 aims to build a new sporting culture by mainstreaming sports as part of national development.
- **Five Pillars Approach:**
 - Sports excellence
 - Social and economic development through sports
 - Sports as a people's movement
 - Sports culture promotion
 - Alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- Unlike the basic 2001 policy, NSP 2025 incorporates sports science, technology, innovation, and economic dimensions (e.g., CSR funding, sports startups, tourism).
- Supports India's ambition to host Commonwealth Games 2030 and Olympics 2036, while building a self-sustaining sports economy.
- Emphasises early talent identification, professional training in schools, and making sports a viable career option.
- Strong alignment with NEP 2020 by integrating sports and academics, promoting sports for all, and encouraging equal importance to physical education.
- Expands focus to include women, differently-abled, and economically weaker sections, beyond rural/tribal areas, making sports a tool for social transformation.
- Seeks to use sports as a catalyst for inclusive development and national progress.

India's linguistic secularism

- According to the 2011 Census, India has 121 languages and 270 mother tongues.
- While religion and language are the two most crucial aspects of any culture, these are also the predominant cross-cultural barriers.
- Article 29 ensures minority groups can protect their language, script, or culture, and prohibits language-based discrimination.
- Unlike Western secularism, India's model includes protection of both religious and linguistic diversity as a constitutional principle.
- India has no national language; Hindi is only the official language of the Union (Article 343), and States can choose their own official languages.
- 22 languages are constitutionally recognized, covering 96.71% of the population's mother tongues.
- Protecting every language equally, promoting tolerance and liberality, is essential for maintaining India's secular and democratic fabric.

Temple entry cannot be denied based on caste in a country governed by rule of law- Supreme Court

- Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court ruled that temple entry cannot be denied based on caste.
- Emphasized that discrimination based on caste violates the rule of law in India.
- Cited the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, especially Section 3, which guarantees temple entry to all Hindus regardless of caste or sect.
- Violations of this provision are considered actionable offences and can lead to legal prosecution.

The 14th Vice-President of India submits his resignation to President

- The 14th Vice-President of India - Jagdeep Dhankhar

Vice-President of India

- Article 63 - Office of Vice-President of India.
- Article 64 - Serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and cannot hold any other office of profit.
- Article 65 - Vice President shall act as President in the event of a vacancy or the President's inability to discharge duties.
- Article 67 - Serves a five-year term from the date of assuming office and continues until their successor assumes charge.
- Article 67(a) - A Vice President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.
- Article 67(b) - Vice President may be removed if an effective majority "all the then members of Rajya Sabha" passes a resolution for his removal, which must then be "agreed to" by the Lok Sabha, with at least 14 days' notice given before moving the resolution.
- **Resolution for removal is introduced only in RS**
- Constitution mentions no ground for removal.
- As of now, no Vice President of India has ever been removed from office through impeachment.
- V.V. Giri (Vice President from 1967-1969) resigned in 1969 to contest the presidential election after the death of President Zakir Husain.

Types of Rights

- Natural Rights - Inherent and inalienable (e.g., right to life, liberty). Not directly enforceable by courts.
- Fundamental Rights - Guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution; directly enforceable under Article 32.
- Constitutional Rights - Found in the Constitution (but outside Part III); e.g., right to property, free trade.
- Statutory Rights - Given through laws passed by Parliament or State Legislatures; e.g., MGNREGS, Food Security.
- **Right to Vote: Current Legal Status**
 - Right to vote is a statutory right, not a fundamental or constitutional right (as per current Supreme Court rulings).
 - Article 326: Grants universal adult suffrage - every citizen above 18 years has the right to vote, unless disqualified.
 - Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951: Only those on the electoral roll can vote; excludes prisoners and disqualified persons.

Key Court Judgments

- N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) & Jyoti Basu (1982): Right to vote is statutory.
- PUCL case (2003): Justice Reddy called it a constitutional right, though not fundamental.
- Kuldip Nayar (2006) & Anoop Baranwal (2023): Reaffirmed as statutory right.
- Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissent (Anoop Baranwal): Called voting a form of expression under Article 19(1)(a); essential to free and fair elections, part of the basic structure - suggested that it should be elevated to a constitutional right.

Madras High Court's Verdict on FIR

Registration Under SC/ST Act

- The Madras High Court delivered a landmark ruling regarding FIR registration under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The Court held that no preliminary inquiry is allowed before FIR registration in such cases.
- Section 18A (1) (a) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which was introduced through the 2018 amendment.
- Supreme Court in **Lalita Kumari v. Govt. of U.P. (2014)**, which held that registration of FIR is mandatory in cognisable offences and that any delay violates Article 21.
- The constitutional mandate of social justice and equality are:
 - Article 15(2) – prohibition of discrimination on grounds of caste,
 - Article 17 – abolition of untouchability,
 - Article 21 – right to life with dignity,
 - Article 46 – Directive Principle to protect SCs/STs from social injustice and exploitation.

National Cooperation Policy 2025

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled the National Cooperation Policy 2025 on 24 July, 2025.
- Aim: Inclusive, member-centric, tech-driven cooperative development.
- New Sectoral Focus: Tourism, Taxi services (launch soon), Insurance (launch soon), Green energy.

Core Focus Areas

- Marginalised Communities: Dalits, Adivasis,

and women placed at the core of the policy

- Inclusivity Goal: Aimed at inclusive development of 130 crore Indians

Significance

- Only the second cooperation policy since Independence (First in 2002 by Vajpayee government)

Strategic Goals by 2034

- Triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP
- 50 crore active members in the cooperative sector
- 30% increase in cooperative societies
- At least one cooperative society in every village/panchayat
- Five model cooperative villages in every tehsil

Six Pillars of the Policy

- Strengthening the foundation
- Promoting vibrancy in cooperatives
- Preparing societies for the future
- Enhancing inclusivity & expanding reach
- Expanding into new sectors
- Youth participation in cooperative development

Rural Economic Impact

- Profits from new ventures to reach PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies)
- Cooperatives seen as a tool for aspiration fulfilment in rural India

Long-Term Outcomes

- Cooperative sector at par with corporate sector
- Target: A Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047

- Enhanced role of **cooperative exports, branding**, and seed production
- Promotes **self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)** and economic dignity

"India Targets 90% 5G Coverage by 2030"

- National Telecom Policy 2025 (NTP-25) draft released by **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
- Builds on the progress of the **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018**.

▪ Coverage Goals by 2030:

- 100% population coverage with 4G
- 90% population coverage with 5G

▪ Economic Objectives:

- Double the telecom sector's contribution to India's GDP.
- Attract annual investments worth ₹1,00,000 crore.

▪ Boost to Telecom Exports and Startups:

- Double exports of telecom products and 5G services.
- Double the number of telecom startups in the country.

- **Strategic Framework:** Draft policy outlines 10 strategic objectives to be met by 2030.

- **Technology Focus:** 5G/6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Quantum Communications, Satellite Networks, Blockchain.

POSH Act 2013

- A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court demanding that political parties also follow the

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (POSH Act) 2013.

- Women involved in politics are excluded from receiving protection under the POSH Act. This is contrary to Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Employment in India Rises to 64.33 Crores

- In India, while the number of employed people was **47.5** crores in 2017-18, this number has increased to **64.33** crores in 2023-24.

- **Women's workforce participation** has increased from 28.7% in 2019-20 to 40.3% in 2023-24.

- The **unemployment** rate has declined from **6%** to **3.2%**.

- **Youth unemployment** has decreased from **17.8%** to **10.2%**.

Vice President of India

- Vice President - Second-highest constitutional position in India.

- The election to the office of Vice-President is governed by The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

- The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including nominated members.

- The nomination paper has to be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and at least 20 electors as seconders

President's Rule in Manipur Extended for Another 6 Months

- The House has approved the extension of President's Rule in Manipur state for another 6 months, which was proclaimed on February 13, 2025, under Article 356 of the Constitution.
- This will come into effect from August 13.
- President's Rule implemented in a state typically lasts for 6 months.
- However, with Parliament's approval, it can be extended for up to 3 years, renewed every six months.
- Student Suicides in Educational Institutions: Supreme Court Issues 15 Guidelines
- These guidelines will remain in effect until the government enacts appropriate legislation regarding this matter.
- All educational institutions must follow uniform mental health protection programs and national suicide prevention guidelines.
- Educational institutions with 100 or more students must appoint qualified counselors, psychologists, or social workers to provide guidance on mental health protection for young students.

Deputy President Election and Qualifications

- The Deputy President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both houses of Parliament.
- This election is conducted through proportional representation using the single transferable vote system. Voting in this election takes place through secret ballot.

Qualifications:

- For someone to be elected Deputy President, they must:
 - Be an **Indian citizen**
 - Have **completed 35 years of age**
 - Be **qualified for election to the Rajya Sabha**.

Disqualifications:

- Any person holding any **office of profit under the Indian government, state government, or local government** bodies under them shall be considered disqualified.

National Anti-Doping Bill - 2025

- Based on instructions from the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**, the National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill (2025) was introduced in the Lok Sabha to enhance operational independence and authority of the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**.
- The bill seeks to **align provisions with international best practices** and the World Anti-Doping Code.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Public Sector Undertakings (PSU)

Dividends to Centre almost double since 2020

- The Centre's dividend receipts from non-banking PSUs have nearly doubled from ₹39,558 crore in 2020-21 to ₹74,017 crore in 2024-25.
- The analysis excluded dividends from the RBI and nationalised banks.
- The growth in dividends is attributed to a "calibrated" approach balancing disinvestment and dividend revenues.
- Five fuel-related PSUs – Coal India Ltd, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, and GAIL – contributed ₹1.27 lakh crore, accounting for 42.3% of total dividends received since 2020-21.
- This analysis carried out by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) (past 5 years date).

Indian Tea Exports See a Rise

- In the 2024-25 fiscal years, India's tea exports increased by 2.85 percent compared to the previous fiscal year.
- North India's tea exports rose by 6.15% to 16.12 crore kg.

- South India's tea exports declined by 4.92% to 9.67 crore kg.
- From January to December 2024, tea exports rose by 10.57% to 25.62 crore kg.
- During the same calendar year, North India's exports increased by 10.28% to 15.55 crore kg.
- South India's exports grew by 11.02% to 10.07 crore kg, as per Tea Board statistics.

Index of eight core industries

- The Index of Eight Core Industries grew by 1.7% in June 2025.
- This is a 3-month high, but significantly lower than 5% in June 2024.
- Also below the average growth of 6.3% in FY 2024-25.
- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The data showed that the coal sector saw the largest contraction.
- The three sectors that witnessed growth in June 2025 were steel, cement, and refinery products.
- The eight core industries (weightage- 40.27%) in India are: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.

TAMIL NADU

T.N. government sanctions ₹110 crore to strengthen cancer diagnosis, treatment

- ₹110.96 crore sanctioned over three years (2025–2028) to strengthen cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- The initiative will benefit 17 government institutions – 5 regional cancer hospitals and 12 tertiary care centres across Tamil Nadu.
- To improve early cancer detection and treatment capacity by upgrading medical equipment and increasing healthcare manpower.
- Rising cancer cases in Tamil Nadu are straining the public healthcare system, prompting this focused response.
- The five regional centres are the Institute of Non-Communicable Diseases, the Government Royapettah Hospital, and the government medical college hospitals in Coimbatore, Thanjavur, and Tirunelveli, and the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.

Excavations at Porpanaikottai

- The State Archaeology Department has completed the second season of excavations at Porpanaikottai, a Sangam-era site in Pudukottai district.
- The excavations had commenced on June 18, 2024.
- A total of 17 trenches were dug, and 1,982 antiquities were recovered.
- The artefacts included glass beads, hopscotch, glass bangles, carnelian beads, amethyst, agate, bone point tool, copper nails, ivory dice, terracotta wheels, grinding and rubbing stones, terracotta beads, and iron and copper objects.

- A torpedo jar and russet-coated ware were also found.
- Pieces of a gold ornament, an iron sword found broken into two pieces and a raw material of agate stone were also found.

Nimirnthu Nil initiative

- Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched Nimirnthu Nil initiative.
- It is an initiative for students in higher education institutions to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.
- Aim: Helping students from 2,000 higher education institutions annually, and will be implemented with an outlay of ₹19.57 crore over five years.
- It targets training 30.5 lakh students in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC)

- Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC) for deeptech innovations at the iTamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub in Anna University.
- It is funded by the government under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives.
- The centre aims at establishing a State-wide hub to bridge the gap between academic institutions and research organisations, with start-ups and industries.
- TNTTFC will offer comprehensive support to end-to-end IP Management.
- This is to ensure that Tamil Nadu's leading IP and research ecosystem translates into economic and societal benefits.
- This will enable Tamil Nadu to compete at an international level in fields such as AI,

semiconductors, biotechnology, and clean energy.

Viceroy during Rajendra Chola Period

- Rajendra Chola inherited a vast empire from his father Raja Raja Chola and expanded its frontiers through military expeditions.
- He introduced the practice of appointing viceroys, drawn from the royal family, to govern the conquered regions.
- His sons were sent as viceroys to Madurai and the Kongu region.

A coin attributed to Rajendra calls him 'Sri Raja Rajendra'

- Two sets of coins are attributed to Rajendra.
- They bear the bow, tiger, and fish emblem.
- One reads, 'Sri Rajendra', and the other, 'Sri Gangaikonda Chola'.
- A separate set features a bow, tiger, and two fish, lamp stands, and the royal parasol.
- Below is the Nagari inscription, 'Sri Raja Rajendra'.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

- Rajendra Chola I launched a military expedition to the Gangetic plains, defeating several kings and chieftains.
- Celebrated his victory by assuming the title 'Gangaikonda Cholan' (the Chola who conquered the Ganga).
- Brought Ganga water to his capital; vanquished kings carried it on their heads to pour into the Chola Gangam (now Ponneri lake).
- Rajendra Chola I built a new capital, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, in present-day Ariyalur district.
- The capital was established around 1025 CE and remained so until the fall of the Chola dynasty in 1279 CE.

▪ It served as the political, commercial, and cultural centre of the Chola Empire for about 250 years.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram (Gangaikonda Cholapuram) Temple

- Constructed by Rajendra Chola I as a tribute to his northern victory.
- Also called Brihadisvara Temple, it rivals the Rajarajeswaram in Thanjavur built by his father, Raja Raja Chola I.
- Listed by UNESCO as one of the Great Living Chola Temples.
- No direct inscription by Rajendra Chola I found in the temple; attribution known through inscriptions of his son Vira Rajendra.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

- Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district will host an event on July 27, 2025, to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of King Rajendra Chola I's conquest of the Gangetic plains.
- King Rajendra Chola I founded Gangaikonda Cholapuram after his northern conquest.
- It was the Chola capital for 250 years, located on the banks of the Kollidam River.

▪ A report from the 1855 Gazetteer of South India (quoted in The Colas by K.A. Nilakanta Sastri) compares Gangaikonda Cholapuram to the ruins of Babylon.

▪ Describes the area as having a large, richly crafted pagoda, surrounded by jungle and ruins resembling ancient mounds.

National Level Clean City: Chennai Gets 38th Position

- Chennai secured the 38th position in the list of India's cleanest cities.
- This ranking is within the category of municipal corporations with a population of over 10 lakh.
- The results of the cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan' conducted annually by the Central

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

- They also stated that Chennai has been awarded 6.822 points based on waste removal and segregated handling of collected waste.
- In Tamil Nadu, they reported that Coimbatore secured the 28th position, Madurai the 40th position, and Trichy the 49th position.

Marungur archaeological excavation

- Marungur, a village in Panruti taluk, Cuddalore district, lies near the Chidambaram-Kumbakonam Highway.
- Site is part of the ancient Naduvil Nadu (Central Territorial Division), flanked by the Thenpennai and Vada Vellar rivers.
- Came into the archaeological spotlight in 2010 with discovery of Tamil Brahmi-inscribed potsherds during road work.
- One of eight sites where the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) undertook excavation in 2024–25.
- **Techniques used:** UAV mapping and LiDAR scanning.
- **Site elevation:** 100 metres above sea level.
- 8 trenches excavated; mound composed mostly of laterite soil.

Discovery of:

- Two large terracotta storage containers (1.25m deep) with bone points and charcoal samples (for radiocarbon dating).
- Iron knife, conch shell cores, graffiti-bearing potsherds, and various types of ceramic ware.
- **95 antiquities, including:**
 - Terracotta toys, stone hopscotch pieces
 - Beads (glass, agate, carnelian, terracotta)
 - Copper (antimony rods, bangle fragments, coin of Raja Raja Chola I)
 - Iron implements and tools
- Two laterite stone circle structures identified.

- 10 urns excavated, placed within laterite bedrock cavities.

Artefacts found:

- Iron swords, red jasper beads, grave goods (pots of red, black-red, and red-slipped ware)
- Indicates continuous cultural occupation from the Iron Age to Early Historic Period.
- Proximity to ancient port cities Arikamedu and Poompuhar boosts its maritime-historical importance.

Future Excavation Sites (Proposed sites) (2025–26):

- Thelunganur, Adichanur, Manikkoltai, Nagapattinam
- Keeladi, Vellalur, Karivalamvanthanallur, Pattanamarudur

e-Sakshya App

- Tamil Nadu Police to launch a new mobile app called e-Sakshya.
- Developed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for use by investigation officers.
- To collect audio-visual evidence, photographs of crime scenes, and witness records.
- Helps maintain the chain of custody and improve admissibility in court.
- Blockchain technology ensures data integrity and authenticity.
- Officers trained to use the app as per Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

Temples of Social Justice

- Recent political issues highlighting the 200-year-old legislative and social justice model on regulating secular aspects of religion, especially prevalent in South India.
- **Legislative Evolution:**
 - **1817:** The Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation was introduced by the East India Company to regulate religious endowments.

- **1858:** Queen Victoria's Proclamation promised minimal interference in religious affairs post-1857 Mutiny.
- Despite this, the British maintained control over secular aspects of temple affairs, especially in the Madras Presidency.
- **Justice Party & 1925 Law:**
 - Justice Party (1920) introduced Bill No. 12 of 1922, leading to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act (1925).
 - Allowed surplus temple funds to be used for secular purposes, like education.
- **The 1959 Act & Present Legal Framework:**
 - Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 is the current law.
 - Section 36: Permits use of surplus funds for welfare with approval.
 - Section 66: Explicitly allows use for colleges/universities, with provision to teach Hindu religion or temple architecture.
- Temples, since Chola (970 AD) and Vijayanagara periods were centres for education and cultural activities.
- Inscriptions and mandapams show that temples were used for learning and public events.
- The Self-Respect Movement promoted temple access and reforms, including anti-caste measures.
- Government intervention enabled temple entry legislation (1936, 1947) and appointment of priests from backward classes.
- Tamil Nadu's model is seen as a pioneer in religious reform and social equity.
- scheme and information about camp locations. This website includes details about the services and schemes offered in both urban and rural areas under this initiative.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the "Ungaludan Stalin" scheme, which brings government services to doorsteps, in Chidambaram Municipality, Cuddalore district.
 - In urban areas, 43 services are provided through 13 departments, and in rural areas, 46 services are offered through 75 departments.
 - Under this scheme, government departments must respond to applications within 45 days.
 - If not satisfied, an appeal can be made. A total of 10,000 camps are planned until November, with 1,738 camps in urban areas and 6,232 camps in rural areas.
 - The website has crossed 4.5 lakh views within one week of its launch.
 - Websites of the Tamil Nadu government and its public sector undertakings typically have both English and Tamil versions.
 - However, the "Ungaludan Stalin" scheme website has been designed entirely in the Tamil language with the aim of reaching all sections of people.
 - There is no use of the English language anywhere on the site.
- **Tamil Nadu Government's loan and cooperative initiatives**
 - ₹53,340 crore in crop loans disbursed to 66.24 lakh farmers in the last 4 years through cooperative societies.
- **Chief Minister's Pharmacies:**
 - 1,000 pharmacies launched across Tamil Nadu.
 - Offer 25% discount on generic, branded, and traditional medicines.

"Ungaludan Stalin" Scheme Website- Operating Entirely in Tamil

- An exclusive website (<https://ungaludanstalin.tn.gov.in>) has been created to provide details about the "Ungaludan Stalin"

- The initiative aims at providing medicines at prices lower than those offered at cooperative, Amma, and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi pharmacies.
- Launched on February 24, 2025
- Tamil Nadu praised by Central Government as best-performing state in the cooperative sector for ensuring loans, fair prices, and support to farmers.

World Police and Fire Games – 2025

- Tamil Nadu Police shone at the World Police and Fire Games 2025, held in Alabama, United States, from June 27 to July 6.
- Police officers from Tamil Nadu V. Dinesh, S. Arjun, B. Harikrishnan, V. Saranya, and K. Elavarsi, representing the All India Police Team, bagged 11 medals (three gold, four silver, and four bronze).
- In the age-category events, a team led by Superintendent of Police A. Myilvaganan won a total of 39 medals – 19 gold, 11 silver, and 9 bronze.
- The Centre will focus on four hornbill species found in the Western Ghats:
- **Great Hornbill**
 - Malabar Grey Hornbill
 - Malabar Pied Hornbill
 - Indian Grey Hornbill
- Centre Activities: Habitat mapping, Nest monitoring, Scientific research, Climate impact assessment and Restoration by planting native trees (e.g., fig, canarium).
- Habitat Development: Native food trees for hornbills such as figs, nutmeg, and ebony will be cultivated in the conservation area.
- **Educational Programs:**
 - Scholarships for local students involved in maintaining the center.
 - Support for student research on hornbill species.
 - Why Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)?
 - Rich ecological diversity
 - Existing conservation infrastructure
 - Proven record in endangered species protection (e.g., tigers, elephants).

India's First Hornbill conservation centre at Anamalai

- India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation will be established at Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu.
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests has sanctioned ₹1 crore under the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund to establish the Centre.
- Ecological Importance of Hornbills
- Hornbills are called "farmers of the forest" due to their role as seed dispersers.
- They are keystone species, critical for forest regeneration.
- Face threats from deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and climate change.
- The initiative also places a strong emphasis on community participation (Nest adoption programmes, Scholarships for local students and Sustainable livelihoods (e.g., seed collection).
- The project will offer capacity-building programmes for forest staff and host awareness activities (field visits for school children and community outreach).
- **Collaborating Organisations with Tamil Nadu Forest Department:**
 - Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
 - Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)
 - Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
 - IUCN Hornbill Specialist Group

- **Ongoing Tamil Nadu Wildlife Projects:**
- India's first Dugong Conservation Sanctuary
- Nilgiri Tahr Project
- Gharial Conservation Center

- Pangolins, the most trafficked mammal globally, also on the priority list.

54th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court

- Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava was sworn in as the 54th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- Article 217 – President of India appoints High Court judges after consulting with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the State.
- In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted.
- Consultation Process: High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.

Tamil Nadu's Endangered Species Conservation Initiative

- First-of-its-kind initiative: Tamil Nadu is the first Indian state to focus exclusively on endangered and critically endangered species through a dedicated fund.
- Fund Transfer to AIWC: The Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund (initially ₹5 crore) will be formally transferred to the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) to boost targeted recovery efforts.
- Unlike typical conservation efforts focusing on tigers and elephants, this initiative will include lesser-known endangered species.
- The endangered species fund is part of a larger ₹50 crore rolling pool for conservation.
- **Target Species:**
 - Purple frog, Nilgiris wart frog, and Anamalai flying frog (all endemic and critically endangered).

₹12-cr. Project to Develop Chola Gangam Lake

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a ₹12 crore project to develop Chola Gangam Lake (also known as Ponneri) in commemoration of Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary on July 23.
- The development activities to be undertaken by the Tourism Department.
- Chola Gangam Lake was originally dug by Rajendra Chola I to commemorate his northern military campaign.
- The Tamil Nadu government has celebrated Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary on Aadi Thiruvathirai every year since 2021.
- A Chola museum (south of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple on the Trichy-Chidambaram highway) is also under development over 10 acres, with a budget of ₹22.10 crore.

T.N. ranks second in per capita Net State Domestic Product

- Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP).
- The data was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- India's per capita net national income (NNI) at constant prices for 2024–25: ₹1,14,710
- Tamil Nadu's per capita NSDP for the same period: ₹1,96,309.
- Tamil Nadu attributes this economic achievement to the welfare programmes and efficient governance initiated since 2021.

Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, a research scholar has documented around **450 species of moths** at the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Moths act as **pollinators**.
- **Moth Night Event** conducted at Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary during **National Moth Week 2025** (from July 19 to July 27), showcasing moth diversity.

About Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** It is located in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
- It lies near India's southernmost tip, where the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean meet.
- The sanctuary is bounded at North by KalakkadMundanthurai Tiger Reserve, South by Kodayar left bank channel and Thovalai channel and in West by Kerala State.
- Rivers: Seven rivers have their origin in this forest including the famous Pahrli and Thamirabarani rivers.

TN to host one of five carbon capture testbeds for cement industry

- Tamil Nadu selected as one of five locations in India to host a Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) testbed.
- It will be set up at Ultratech Cement's Reddipalayam plant in Ariyalur district.
- **Aim:** To reduce CO₂ emissions from the cement industry, which contributes 7-8% of India's industrial carbon emissions.
- Supported by IIT Madras and BITS Pilani (Goa campus).
- Part of a national programme by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to validate and demonstrate CCU technologies.
- Marks progress towards India's net-zero emissions target by 2070.
- Financial support for the projects is being processed by DST.
- CO₂ may be converted into value-added products like: Synthetic fuels, Urea, Soda ash, Concrete aggregates, Food-grade CO₂.

- Chief Minister's Trophy Sports Competitions
- The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority, on behalf of Chennai district, has announced that various new sports have been added to the Chief Minister's Trophy sports competitions for 2025-2026.
- The competitions will be held from August 22 to September 12, 2025, with participation from both genders across five categories: school students, college students, differently-abled individuals, general public, and government employees.

Tamil Nadu Government Must Implement Forest Rights Act

- Political parties are urging the Tamil Nadu government to implement the Forest Rights Act of 2006. Despite a court order stating that people should not be evicted from mango groves until 2028, the government has reportedly evicted them.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 (officially known as the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act**) is a crucial legislation aimed at recognizing and protecting the rights of communities living in forest areas in India.

Key Objectives:

- **Rights Recognition:** Acknowledging the historical rights of Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) living in forest areas who depend on forests for their livelihood.
- **Livelihood Protection:** Ensuring sustainable use of forest resources by local communities
- **Community Empowerment:** Granting legal rights over forest land and resources to these communities

Agaramuthali Iyakkagam

- The Agaramuthali Iyakkagam has announced that articles can be submitted for the Dictionary Research Journal.
- **November 8th is celebrated annually as Tamil Lexicography Day** to honor Veera Mamuniver, who is revered as the father of Tamil lexicography.
- Research articles are typically published in a Dictionary Research Journal on this day.
- Applications are being accepted for awards including the Devaneyap Pavaanar and Veera Mamuniver awards given by the Classical Tamil Etymology Agaramuthali Iyakkagam .

Keeladi Excavation Report

- DMK Parliamentary Group leader and Thoothukudi constituency MP **Kanimozhi emphasized in the Lok Sabha** that the Keeladi excavation report should be released immediately.
- She brought this matter to the attention of the house under **Rule 377** regarding delays in publishing the Keeladi excavation research report.

Rule 377 of the Indian Parliament

- It allows Lok Sabha members to raise questions on urgent matters of importance not covered in other parliamentary procedures.

About Keeladi

- Since 2018, the **Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department** has undertaken this work and has discovered over 15,000 artifacts.
- Keeladi has been proven to be a prosperous urban civilization dating back to the 6th century BCE.

- A comprehensive report on the first two phases of excavations was submitted to the Archaeological Survey of India by archaeologist Amarnath in January 2023.

Medical Testing Quality Assurance Laboratory

- The **Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare** inaugurated a specialized laboratory established for quality assurance of public health sector laboratories and the tests conducted in them.
- A **quality assurance laboratory has been created to conduct quality assurance** tests for all laboratories operating under the Tamil Nadu Medical Department.
- In the first phase, primary health center laboratories in **Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts** will be quality assured to obtain international quality certification.
- From **next year**, this program will be **expanded across the entire state**.
- This laboratory will also conduct quality testing at very low cost for government and private laboratories operating in other states.
- Additionally, **memoranda of understanding** have been made with voluntary organizations for:
 - Early detection of infectious diseases caused by climate change
 - Studying microorganisms in wastewater to predict disease spread
 - Prevention measures for dengue, malaria, and chikungunya
- An agreement has also been made with DON SAM organization under the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation to provide

safe drinking water by detecting chlorine levels in water using artificial intelligence.

'TN SPARK' New Program for Classes 6-9 Students

- In line with emerging science and technology, a curriculum has been prepared and teacher training will be provided to teach students computer-based basic science, **artificial intelligence capabilities, and technological science under the name "Tamil Nadu School Programme for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Knowledge of Online Tools"**.
- Through this program, **curriculum and textbooks** have been developed based on four core themes :
 - **Basic computer science education, Online platform tools, Coding, AI**
- At the ceremony, the Deputy Chief Minister released books prepared under the **THIRAN (Targeted Help for Improving Remediation & Academic Nurturing)** movement and TN SPARK curriculum books.

Khelo India Centers

- Tamil Nadu has **38 Khelo India Centers across 37 districts**.
- KICs are district-level sports training centers established under the Khelo India scheme.
- They aim to provide sports training and coaching to children and youth.

Mangrove Restoration in Tamil Nadu

- Mangrove saplings were planted by Environment and Climate Change Minister at the Adyar estuary, Chennai, ahead of World Mangrove Day (July 26).

Mangrove Restoration Scheme (2023–2026)

- Launched: February 2023.
- Budget: ₹25 crore.
- Duration: 3 years (up to 2026).
- Coverage: Targets 10 districts, includes both forest and revenue lands

Scale of Restoration Efforts (Since 2022)

- Total Area Revived: Over 2,900 hectares of mangroves.
- Targeted Area: Across 9 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Goal: Reduce effects of cyclones, tidal surges, erosion, and to support biodiversity and local livelihoods.
- Bio-shield plantations using trees such as casuarina, palmyrah, and cashew have been introduced to protect against wind and wave action.
- Rare Species Reintroduced: *Sonneratia apetala*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, *Kandelia candel*.

New Quality Assurance Lab for Government Health Facilities – Tamil Nadu

- **Objective:** To ensure the quality of diagnostic tests conducted at government-run labs across Tamil Nadu.
- **Location:** Established at State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL), under the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine, Chennai.
- Pilot Project (DPH-EQAS) (External Quality Assurance Scheme)
 - This Programme is being rolled out at 116 PHC laboratories in Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts.
 - Mobile App: Launched to upload lab results.

NATIONAL - NEWS

India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

- Gujarat has launched India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to improve tribal healthcare.
- It will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts in the State.
- The initiative will focus on early detection and targeted treatment of genetic disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia, and certain hereditary cancers.
- The genetic data collected will also be used to identify markers related to natural immunity and support the development of personalised healthcare solutions.

India's Clean Energy Progress

- As of June 30, 2025, 50% of India's installed electricity capacity (out of 484 GW) comes from non-fossil fuel sources.
- Achieved 5 years ahead of target set under India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.
- However, actual electricity supplied from clean energy sources is still below 30% (28% between April 2024-May 2025).
- Despite 50% installed capacity, only 28% of actual electricity generation (April 2024 - May 2025) came from clean energy.
- In 2014-15, clean energy contributed 17% to actual electricity generation.
- The "capacity utilisation factor" (CUF) - A measure of how much available energy was usable.

- Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal's 60% or nuclear's 80%.

World's First Rain Museum

- The world's first Rain Museum is being built in Mawsynram, Meghalaya, known as the wettest place on Earth.
- The ₹35 crore project aims to celebrate the region's unique relationship with rain and its impact on local culture, traditions, and ecology.
- The museum will feature interactive exhibits, live rain simulations, and cultural installations, offering a blend of science, art, and local culture.

44th Foundation Day celebrations of NABARD

- The 44th Foundation Day of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was celebrated in Chennai.
- Announced collaboration between MSSRF and NABARD on the 'Climate Smart Village' initiative.
- This Pilot project launched in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai districts, Tamil Nadu.
- **Goals:**
 - Improve climate resilience for farmers and fishermen.
 - Deal with weather fluctuations due to climate change.
 - Focus on optimal use of natural resources.
 - Encourage long-term planning in agricultural practices.
- Funds of over ₹50,000 crore had been disbursed in Tamil Nadu in the financial year 2024-25 for building infrastructure and agricultural refinance.

- This was the highest quantum of funds disbursed by NABARD to any State in the country.

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards

- To ensure a level playing field and acknowledge consistent top performers like Indore (ranked No. 1 for 7 consecutive years), MoHUA introduced a new category- Super Swachh League (SSL) Cities.
- These SSL cities were excluded from regular rankings to promote fairness and encourage emerging cities.
- For the first time, city classification based on population was introduced, enabling fair comparison and targeted improvement across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
 - Cities were ranked in 5 categories:
 - Very Small Cities (< 20,000)
 - Small Cities (20,000 – 50,000)
 - Medium Cities (50,000 – 3 lakh)
 - Big Cities (3 – 10 lakh)
 - Million Plus Cities (> 10 lakh)

National workshop on Jain Manuscriptology

- A National Workshop on Jain Manuscriptology was held at Gujarat University.
- Organised By: Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Held under the aegis of varsity's Department for Validation of Indic Knowledge through Advanced Research and funded by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).
- This is part of a larger vision under the PMJVK to uplift and empower all six notified minority communities – Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains – by supporting academic research and heritage conservation.
- A similar initiative is already under way in

collaboration with Mumbai University to preserve the Avesta and Pahlavi languages of the Parsi Zoroastrian tradition.

NITI Aayog on Poverty Reduction

- 24 crore Indians were lifted out of multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23, according to NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery.
- The statement was made at an event organized by the Indian Embassy to the UN in New York.
- India is making progress in reducing maternal and child mortality, moving toward its health goals.
- India's progress has been made possible by a dual strategy: strong safety nets to protect the most vulnerable people and growth-supporting reforms.

Bank of India Celebrates 'Kisan Diwas'

- Bank of India (Chennai Zone) celebrated Kisan Diwas (Farmers' Day).
- The event aimed to encourage farmers, agri and food processing entrepreneurs, and women's self-help groups (SHGs).

▪ National Farmers' Day, observed on 23rd December, celebrates their invaluable contribution.

▪ This day marks the birth anniversary of Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister, renowned for his deep understanding of rural issues and unwavering advocacy for farmers' welfare.

GIFT City

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's first International Financial Services Centre and flagship Smart City project in Gandhinagar.
- Objective: To serve as a global financial and

IT services hub, comparable to international centers like Dubai, Singapore, and London.

Key Features:

- Offers world-class infrastructure
- Single-window clearance system
- Liberal regulatory environment with tax benefits
- Hosts the IFSC Authority (IFSCA), India's unified regulator for international financial services.

Kashi Declaration

- The Youth Spiritual Summit concluded recently at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi with the formal adoption of the Kashi Declaration.
- Theme: "Drug-free Youth for Developed India".
- Organised by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Objective: Aim to build a drug-free society by 2047, blending spiritual strength with youthful energy.

Meri Panchayat App

- It Won the WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award (World Summit on the Information Society).
- Recognized internationally for promoting ICT-driven sustainable rural development goals (SDGs).
- A unified digital governance platform for rural India.

▪ Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) under MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and IT).

▪ Multilingual interface with support for 12+ Indian languages.

World Food India event

▪ The 4th edition of World Food India will be held from September 25 to 28, 2025 in New Delhi.

▪ Organised By: Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

▪ Objective:

▪ To showcase developments in the food processing sector.

▪ To promote the vision that at least one Indian food item should reach the dining tables of every home in the world.

Caste-wise Census in Karnataka

▪ Karnataka has planned to conduct a new **caste-wise census starting from September 22.**

▪ The objective of the caste-wise census is to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

▪ This caste-wise census will be conducted for **15 days from September 22 to October 7.**

▪ In 2015, the Kantharaj-led Backward Classes Commission had already conducted a caste-wise census with 54 questions, and this time additional questions will be added.

NATIONAL SCHEMES

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- Objective: Boost agricultural productivity and promote sustainable agricultural practices
- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26.
- The Centre had merged 36 schemes of 11 Ministries into the PMDDKY, which will have an outlay of ₹24,000 crore per year for six years beginning 2025-26.
- This scheme will help 1.7 crore farmers.
- The scheme aims at augmenting post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improving irrigation facilities, and facilitating availability of long-term and short-term credit.
- The scheme will be implemented through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 departments, other State schemes, and local partnerships with the private sector.
- 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement.
- The scheme would benefit at least one district in each State.
- The number of districts in each State/Union Territory will be based on the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings.
- However, a minimum of one district will be selected from each State.
- The scheme is modelled on the “Aspirational District Programme” of the Centre.
- The “first-of-its-kind” scheme would focus exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.

Skill India Mission

- The Skill India Mission launched on 15th July 2015 (World Youth Skills Day) has completed 10 years in 2025, marking a decade of efforts to empower India's youth with job-ready skills.
- The scheme is designed to skill, reskill, and upskill India's youth by offering industry-relevant training through a vast network of centers and programs, addressing the increasing demand for employability, entrepreneurship, and quality job opportunities.
- In February 2025, the restructured Skill India Mission was approved for 2022-23 to 2025-26, merging Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme into a single Central Sector Scheme.
- All the courses and certifications under the Skill India Program are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and integrated with DigiLocker & National Credit Framework (NCrF).

SASCI Scheme

- SASCI - Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale.
- Launched by: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in.

Objective:

- Transform iconic Indian tourist sites into world-class destinations by 2026.
- Enhance tourist experience, global competitiveness, and attract investment.
- Centrally Funded: Financial assistance by Centre; execution by States.
- Project Timeline: Must be completed within 24 months from approval.

- Encourages cooperative federalism by empowering State-led tourism innovation.
- Integrated into India's global and domestic tourism campaigns.

PM-Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

- Launched By: Union Government; announced in Union Budget.
- Implemented By: EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation).

Objective

- Incentivize employment generation.
- Create over 3.5 crore jobs in two years.
- Benefits for Employees
- First-time employees will get one month's wage up to ₹15,000.

Benefits for Employers

- Incentives for 2 years for creating additional employment.
- Extended benefits for another 2 years for the manufacturing sector.
- Benefits of scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- The Central Government has provided toilet facilities to 95.1% of rural households.
- This scheme, launched in 2019, aimed to provide household tap connections to all rural

households in the country by 2024 to supply 55 liters of drinking water per person daily.

▪ Primary Ministry: Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti

▪ Funding: Central Government funding scheme

100-Day Employment Scheme Fund Release

- The funds released for the 100-day employment scheme have continuously declined over the past 5 years.

MGNREGA

▪ MGNREGA is one of the world's largest job guarantee schemes launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2005.

▪ The primary objective of this scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment per financial year to any adult member of rural households willing to do unskilled manual work in public works.

▪ As of 2022-23, there are 15.4 crore workers under this scheme.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

▪ This scheme was launched by the Railway Ministry in December 2022.

▪ The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a long-term plan for the gradual upgradation of railway stations across India.

REPORTS & INDICES

Periodic Labour Force Survey

- Released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation.
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women dropped in both rural (from 36.9% to 35.2%) and urban areas (from 25.3% to 25%) in June.
- National LFPR for people aged 15+ fell from 54.8% in May to 54.2% in June, attributed to seasonal agricultural shifts and intense summer heat.
- The overall unemployment rate for female and male of all ages above 15 remained at 5.6% in June, with a slight decline for females (by 0.1%) and no change for males.
- Share of rural women in agriculture fell from 70.2% in May to 69.8% in June, indicating less agricultural engagement, possibly due to declining rural inflation.
- For men aged 15+, LFPR slightly declined in rural (78.3% to 78.1%) and urban (75.1% to 75%) areas.

Best Cities for Students: Chennai Ranks 128th

- Chennai has moved up 12 places to rank 128th in the QS list of best cities for students wishing to study abroad.
- The ranking is published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global higher education analysis institute based in London, UK.

- Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is ranked 1st, overtaking London.
- London, which topped the list for 6 consecutive years, has dropped to 3rd place.
- Other Indian cities' rankings:
 - Mumbai: Up 15 places to 98th
 - Delhi: Up 7 places to 104th
 - Bangalore: Up 22 places to 108th

'Swachh Survekshan' cleanliness survey

- Introduced to promote new cities in cleanliness rankings
- Million-plus cities (Population > 10 lakh)
 - 1st - Ahmedabad, Gujarat (Cleanest Million-Plus City)
 - 2nd - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
 - 3rd - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 3 to 10 lakh population category
 - 1st - Mira-Bhayandar, Maharashtra
 - 2nd - Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh
 - 3rd - Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
- Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Vijayawada entered the newly introduced 'Super Swachh League', which recognises sustained excellence in cleanliness among cities, in the "million-plus population" category.
- A total of 23 cities were inducted into this league, with Noida, Chandigarh, and Mysore, among others, entering the "3 lakh to 10 lakh population" category.
- New Delhi made the cut in the "50,000 to 3 lakh population" category.
- The award for the 'Best Ganga Town' went to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

- Secunderabad Cantonment in Telangana was named the Cleanest Cantonment Board.
- Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) were declared 'Best Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar' for their commitment to the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.

"Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" – World Bank

- The report titled "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" was released by the World Bank in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Indian cities are projected to contribute 70% of new jobs by 2030.
- Urban population expected to double to 951 million by 2050.
- Over 144 million new homes will be needed by 2070.
- Heat waves and urban heat island effects are raising temperatures by 3–4°C in city centres compared to surrounding areas.
- Rapid urbanization is reducing cities' ability to absorb storm water, increasing flood risk.
- The report examined 24 Indian cities, with a special focus on: Chennai, Indore, New Delhi, Lucknow, Surat and Thiruvananthapuram.
- With over 50% of 2050's urban infrastructure yet to be built, India has a critical opportunity to develop resilient, green urban infrastructure.

Groundwater Overexploitation in Tamil Nadu – Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) Report

- Tamil Nadu: One of the worst-affected states in groundwater overuse.
- 106 out of 313 groundwater assessment units classified as overexploited.
- Nationally, 33.87% of total units are overexploited.
- CGWA invoked Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: Urged all states to impose environmental compensation.
- District-wise Alarming Data (Overexploited Units / Total Units)
 - Tirupattur: 4/4 → 100%
 - Salem: 13/14 → 92.86%
 - Vellore: 5/6 → 83.33%
 - Chennai: 13/16 → 81.25%
 - Mayiladuthurai: 3/4 → 75%
 - Dindigul: 7/10 → 70%
 - Coimbatore: 7/11 → 63.64%

AWARDS & HONOURS

"Swachh Survekshan 2024-25" awards

- Uttar Pradesh government, Prayagraj Mela Authority & Municipal Corporation were recognized for exceptional urban waste management during Maha Kumbh 2024.
- Maha Kumbh- the world's largest religious congregation, which witnessed a footfall of 66 crore.

IMPORTANT DAYS

AI Appreciation Day

- India is observing AI Appreciation Day on July 16 to recognize its growing contributions in the field of Artificial Intelligence.
- The celebration highlights AI's impact across key sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and industry.

Tamil Nadu Day 2025

- "Tamil Nadu Day" is celebrated in Tamil Nadu on July 18.
- While it was announced that Tamil Nadu Day would be celebrated on November 1 in 2019, it was changed to July 18 in 2021.
- The then Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai renamed Madras State as "Tamil Nadu" in 1967.

National Flag Day/ Tiranga Adoption Day

- Date Observed: July 22 every year.
- Occasion: Marks the day in 1947 when the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Indian National Flag.
- Symbolism: The Tiranga (tricolour) is a powerful symbol of national pride, freedom, and unity.
- This year's theme "One Nation, One Flag: United in Sacrifice, Committed to Peace".

Income Tax Day – July 24

- Observed on: July 24 annually
- Theme: Responsible Taxation. Resilient Nation.
- Commemorates: Introduction of Income Tax in India in 1860 by Sir James Wilson during the British Raj.
- Symbolizes India's fiscal growth, voluntary tax compliance, transparency, and digital transformation in taxation.

Historical Milestones:

- 1860: Income tax introduced to finance British war expenses.
- 1922: Income-tax Act enacted – formalized the tax structure.
- 1924: Central Board of Revenue Act established statutory tax administration.

Digital Advancements

- 1981: Start of computerization of income tax processes.
- 2009: Launch of Centralized Processing Centre (CPC) for efficient and jurisdiction-free return processing.
- 2020: Introduction of the 'Vivid se Vishwas' scheme to reduce litigations and generate government revenues.

World Mangrove Day

- Celebrated annually on July 26.
- Declared by UNESCO in 2015 during its General Conference.
- Theme - "Protect Wetlands for Our Future."
- Ecological Importance of Mangroves:
 - Act as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and tsunamis.
 - Serve as carbon sinks, helping combat climate change.
 - Provide habitats and breeding grounds for numerous marine species.
 - Help stabilize shorelines with their complex root systems.

World Youth Skills Day

- World Youth Skills Day, declared by the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) in 2014, is celebrated annually on 15th July to emphasise the strategic importance of skilling youth.
- The 2025 theme focuses on empowering youth through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital skills.

DEFENCE

Akash Prime

- The Indian Army successfully tested the Akash Prime air defence system in eastern Ladakh.
- Akash Prime will form part of the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defence system in the Army.
- Akash is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, indigenously developed.
- Prithvi-II and Agni-I are Short-range ballistic missiles.
- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed the ULPGM-V3 missile that can strike ground targets from the air via drone.
- The production of this missile has been handed over to Adani and Bharat Dynamics companies.
- Three types of missiles - V1, V2, and V3 - have been developed in this category.
- These differ in guidance, operation, and strike range capabilities.
- DRDO successfully tested this missile at the open-air testing centre in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

SPORTS & GAMES

Fourth ASF Asian surfing championships

- Mamallapuram will play host to the fourth ASF Asian surfing championships from August 3 to 12.
- The competition gains significance as it will serve as a qualification route for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.
- Surfers from 20 Asian countries will compete.
- Events in 4 short board categories: Open Men, Open Women, U-18 Boys, and U-18 Girls.
- 8 out of 12 Indian national surfers hail from Tamil Nadu, reflecting strong grassroots and elite training programmes.
- It is a major milestone for Indian surfing and boosts Tamil Nadu's global sports and adventure tourism image.
- including BCCI, and setting up a National Sports Tribunal to resolve sports-related disputes.
- This bill ensures that all recognized national sports organizations come under the Right to Information Act.
- The bill's explanatory statement mentions that bringing positive changes in sports administration is essential to improve Indians' participation in international competitions, as part of preparatory activities for bidding for the 2036 Olympics.

National Sports Board

- This board will have powers to formulate rules for the proper functioning of national associations and federations for sports and to monitor their activities.
- All federations in the country must obtain recognition from this board to receive central government funding.

National Sports Administration Bill

- Key features include establishing a National Sports Board to monitor the activities of sports associations and federations in the country,

National Sports Tribunal

- This tribunal will have the powers of a civil court. Appeals against its decisions can only be made to the Supreme Court.

INTERNATIONAL

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- External Affairs Minister Jaishankar stated that the SCO should not compromise in its stand against terrorism.
- It is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.

Global Shipping- Decarbonisation Goal

- Global shipping aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040-2050, transitioning from fossil fuels to green alternatives.
- Transition Fuels: LNG (liquefied natural gas) is seen as a bridge fuel; the industry is moving toward green methanol (short term) and green ammonia (long term) as main green fuels.

Green Fuel Production

- Green hydrogen is made via electrolysis using renewable energy.
- Green methanol = green hydrogen + CO₂ from industrial sources.
- Green ammonia = green hydrogen + nitrogen; more stable than hydrogen for shipping.

India's Role:

- India plans to decarbonise domestic shipping and build green fuel hubs at Tuticorin and Kandla.
- Aims to export green fuels to major bunkering stations like Singapore.
- Partnerships with overseas shipbuilders from South Korea and Japan are being pursued to support India's shipbuilding strength.
- India is pushing for green-fuel capable ships, aiming to build 20% of its 110-ship purchase plan domestically with incentives for retrofits and foreign partnerships.
- With its solar potential, CO₂ sources, and growing electrolyser capacity, India can become a global hub for green marine fuels and boost its ship owning and shipbuilding ecosystem.

India-EFTA Trade Agreement to be Implemented from October 1

- The India-EFTA (European Free Trade Association) trade agreement will be implemented from October 1.
- EFTA includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
- The agreement aims to boost mutual trade and investment between India and these four countries.
- EFTA countries will invest ₹8.5 lakh crore (USD 100 billion) in India over 15 years:
 - USD 50 billion in the first 10 years.
 - USD 50 billion in the next 5 years.
- The investment is expected to create 10 lakh new jobs in India.

- India will gradually remove customs duties over 10 years on products like Swiss watches, chocolates, biscuits, and wall clocks.

About European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- It is an intergovernmental organization set up for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – and the benefit of their trading partners around the globe.
- It was established by a Convention signed in Stockholm on 4th January 1960.

China Begins Construction of World's Largest Dam across Brahmaputra River in Tibet

- China has begun construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, near the Arunachal Pradesh border.
- India has raised concerns over the dam's impact on the Brahmaputra River's flow, especially for India and Bangladesh.
- The Brahmaputra River originates in Tibet, flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, enters Bangladesh, and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- India is also building dams (largest hydropower dam on the Siang River) on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

India-UK Trade Agreement

- The India-UK trade agreement was signed on July 24 in the presence of Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Keir Starmer.
- Both countries have extensive cooperation in various sectors including trade, investment,

technology, innovation, defense, education, research, sustainable use of resources, health, and people-to-people connections.

- In the 2023-24 financial year, bilateral trade between India and the UK was \$21.34 billion.
- Through this agreement, 99% of goods exported from India to Britain will receive complete tax exemption.

Pakistan Resolution in UN Security Council

- A resolution proposed by Pakistan regarding strengthening mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council.
- The Security Council consists of 15 members, and the chairmanship rotates monthly among member countries in alphabetical order. Pakistan currently holds the July presidency.

UN Security Council

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the UN, consisting of 15 members including five permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, and USA with veto power).

CETA Free Trade Agreement

- India and the U.K., in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a free trade pact aimed at enhancing bilateral ties.
- The agreement replaces the earlier 'Roadmap 2030' with the expanded 'India-U.K. Vision 2035', outlining long-term cooperation goals.
- Under CETA, Britain will offer tax concessions on 99% of Indian exports, including full

customs duty exemptions on 99% of marine products and about 95% of agricultural products.

- PM Modi emphasized that the deal would elevate diplomatic relations with renewed momentum over the next decade.

India & Maldives Celebrate 60 Years of Friendship With Stunning Stamp Release

Historical Background

- Diplomatic relations established in 1965, shortly after Maldives' independence.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize Maldives.
- Over 60 years, relations have expanded in areas like: Trade, Security & Defense, Tourism, Healthcare, Climate resilience and Infrastructure

Significance of the Stamps

- Symbolize the shared maritime heritage and centuries-old ties.
- Reflect cultural, economic, and strategic cooperation in the Indian Ocean.
- Emphasize historical trade and oceanic connections between both nations.

Features of the Stamps

- Designed to reflect traditional craftsmanship and history.
- **Uru:** A large wooden dhow handcrafted in Kerala's Beypore boatyards, historically used for Indian Ocean trade.
- **Vadhu Dhoni:** A Maldivian vessel used for reef and coastal fishing, symbolizing self-reliance and maritime heritage.
- The artwork and design highlight sustainability, tradition, and regional unity.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Tamil novels deal with the rule of Rajendra Chola

- Balakumaran authored Gangai Konda Cholan as a sequel to his novel Udayar, which focused on Rajendra's father, Raja Raja Chola.
- Vennila's Gangapuram explores the inner world of Rajendra, often overshadowed by his legendary father, despite his achievements.
- Nagasamy (Author)-Gangaikondacholapuram Book (1970)

MISCELLANEOUS

Tent City

- Dhordo, Gujarat, is commonly known as the "Tent City" in India.
- It's the location of the famous Rann Utsav, a cultural festival held in the Great Rann of Kutch.
- The festival features a temporary city of luxurious tents, offering visitors a unique experience of the region's art, culture, and cuisine amidst the white desert landscape.