

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**AUGUST 2025 - PART 1**



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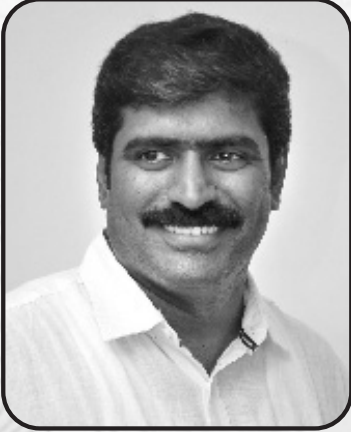
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# Preface



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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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## GENERAL SCIENCE

### Nihonium

- Nihonium is the first element to be discovered in Asia.
- It was created at the RIKEN research institute in Japan, and the name derives from “Nihon”, the Japanese word for Japan.
- Due to its short half-life and radioactivity, it is used only for research purposes.
- It has an atomic number of 113 and an atomic mass of 286 AMU.

### Hemophilia

- It is a genetic bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency in clotting factor VIII (blood-clotting protein), which is necessary for blood clotting.
- It is a sex-linked disorder determined by the X and Y chromosomes.
- The gene for hemophilia is found on the X chromosome.
- Hemophilia is much more common in males than in females.
- **Treatment**
  - It includes replacement therapy, where clotting factor concentrates are infused into the bloodstream to assist blood clotting.
  - Other treatments may involve medications to encourage clotting or surgery to mend bleeding-related damage.
- World Haemophilia day is celebrated on 17th April every year, aiming to increase awareness about hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day is celebrated in the honor of Frank Schnabel, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF).

### Solar System

- The solar system is located about 27,000 light years from the centre of the Milky Way.
- It orbits the Milky Way at a speed of 220 km per second. It takes 22.5 crore years to complete one orbit.
- The solar family consists of the Sun, 8 planets and their satellites, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, meteorites and various other structures.

### Rabies

- It is a deadly zoonotic disease caused by the Rabies virus (RABV) that attacks the nervous system.
- RABV is an RNA virus of the rhabdovirus family.
- It is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTD) that predominantly affects already marginalized, poor, and vulnerable populations.
- It is a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Vaccinating dogs, including puppies, is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people because it stops the transmission at its source.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies.
- The Central Government has framed the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023 which is to be implemented by the local authority to control the population of stray dogs.
- The Government has launched ‘National Action Plan For Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030’.

## Japanese Encephalitis

- It is a potentially severe viral zoonotic disease caused by the Japanese Encephalitis(B) virus.
- The virus is transmitted from animals – particularly pigs and birds belonging to the Ardeidae family, such as cattle egrets, pond herons, etc. – to humans by the Culex mosquito of the Vishnui group.
- There is no human-to-human transmission of the virus.
- Vaccination is the most effective prevention strategy, particularly in endemic regions.
- Early diagnosis and supportive treatment can help manage symptoms, but there is no specific antiviral treatment for Japanese Encephalitis.
- According to the central government guidelines, two doses of the vaccine have been a part of the Universal Immunisation Programme since 2013.
- Since 2007, the JE vaccination programme is being implemented in 15 endemic revenue districts in Tamil Nadu.
- In Tamil Nadu, the program to provide Japanese brain fever vaccination to children up to 15 years of age and adolescents has been extended to 7 more districts.

## H5N1 Bird Flu

- H5N1 bird flu, a highly pathogenic virus, is spreading globally, posing a significant threat to birds and wildlife.

### About H5N1 Bird Flu

- Avian influenza A(H5N1) or H5N1 bird flu is a highly pathogenic virus that primarily spreads among birds but can affect mammals.

- H5N1 originated from a viral outbreak in China in 1996 and quickly evolved into a highly pathogenic strain.
- The first H5N1 outbreak in India occurred in 2015 in Maharashtra and Gujarat states.

## Pneumonia

- Pneumonia is an acute respiratory infection of the lungs. It is also a Pneumococcal disease caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pneumoniae or pneumococcus.
- Cause:It doesn't have one single cause – it can develop from either bacteria, viruses or fungi in the air.
- Vulnerability:Children whose immune systems are immature (i.e. newborns) or weakened – such as by undernourishment, or diseases like HIV – are more vulnerable to pneumonia.
- Spread:Pneumonia is contagious and can be spread through coughing or sneezing. It can also be spread through fluids, like blood during childbirth, or from contaminated surfaces.

## Vaccine

- Pneumonia caused by bacteria is easily preventable with vaccines. 3 doses of the primary vaccine (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) to prevent it are recommended.
- A new vaccine for one of the main viral causes of pneumonia is under development.
- India has introduced nationwide rollout of PCV under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

## Diseases Burden

- Global: Together, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan

account for more than half of all deaths due to pneumonia among children under 5.

- Annually, India witnesses an estimated 71% of pneumonia deaths and 57% of severe pneumonia cases.

## LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Four semiconductor plants

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for four new projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- **Locations:** These new plants will be located in Odisha (two projects), Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Aims:** To support India's semiconductor ecosystem, reduce import dependency, and build strategic tech capabilities.
- The first chip from one of the earlier approved units is expected to be produced by the end of 2025.

### India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- The ISM was launched in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs76,000 crore under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
- It is part of the comprehensive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystems in the country.

### Quantum Technology

- China successfully launched the first satellite capable of information exchange using quantum technology with extreme security that hackers cannot easily penetrate.
- This 2-year experiment has been named 'Quantum Experiments at Space Scale-QUESS'.

## SPACE

### ISRO targets 2027 launch for LVM3

#### semi-cryogenic stage

- ISRO is aiming for a 2027 launch for its first LVM3 launch vehicle equipped with a semi-cryogenic propulsion stage.

#### About LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III)

- ISRO's most powerful three-stage rocket.
- First experimental flight in December 2014.
- **Current payload capacity:** 4200 kg to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit).
- The semi-cryogenic stage is designed to enhance payload capability while keeping costs down.
- Replaces L110 core stage (liquid propellant) with a semi-cryogenic stage.
- Semi-cryogenic engine as a "very complex one" that uses special materials to withstand high temperatures and oxidiser-rich combustion.
- Whereas the liquid-fuelled Vikas engine gives a nominal thrust of 80 tonnes, the SE2000 semi-cryogenic engine is designed to supply 200 tonnes.

### Three main types of satellite orbits

#### Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO)

- Altitude: 35,786 km above equator
- Coverage: Nearly one-third of Earth's surface per satellite
- **Drawback:** High latency due to signal travel distance

#### Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)

- **Altitude:** 2,000-35,786 km
- Compromise between GEO and LEO systems

- Lower latency than GEO but still requires constellations
- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**
  - **Altitude:** Below 2,000 km
  - **Advantages:** Very low latency, smaller/cheaper satellites
  - **Disadvantage:** Small coverage area requiring mega-constellations
- Project is under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, led by IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).
- **Purpose and Applications:** The satellite constellation will provide high-quality data and services (Analysis Ready Data and Value-Added Services) for various applications, including climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, marine surveillance, national security, and urban planning.
- **Strategic Importance:** A primary goal of this initiative is to reduce India's dependence on foreign sources for satellite data, thereby ensuring data sovereignty.

### India's First Private EO Satellite Constellation

- PixxelSpace India-led consortium selected to design, build, and operate India's first fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation.



# GEOGRAPHY

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

### Alaknanda River

- Landslip hits Vishnugad hydel site in Chamoli, where an Alaknanda River barrage is under construction.

### About Alaknanda River

- It is a Himalayan river in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It is one of the two main headstreams of the Ganges River, the other being the Bhagirathi River.
- It originates from the meltwaters of the Satopanth and Bhagirath Kharak glaciers in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
- The river is joined by many tributaries in Uttarakhand.
- Five of the tributaries are considered major, and their points of confluence are also worshipped. The five holy confluences in the Garhwal Himalayas are also known as Panch Prayag. They are listed below:

- **Vishnuprayag:** Alaknanda meets Dhauliganga River
- **Nandprayag:** Alaknanda meets Nandakini River
- **Karnaprayag:** Alaknanda meets Pindar River
- **Rudraprayag:** Alaknanda meets Mandakini River
- **Devprayag:** Alaknanda meets Bhagirathi. This is the most revered confluence, as it is here when the surging water coming from the mountains is finally called the Ganga.

- At the time of the formation of Ganga, Alaknanda's contribution to the flow is much larger than that of Bhagirathi.
- From its source till its union with Bhagirathi, Alaknanda travels for 190 km (approx.).
- Along the banks of the Alaknanda are numerous important pilgrimage sites such as Badrinath, Hemkund Sahib, and Joshimath.

### Mahanadi River (860 km Length)

- **Context:** Odisha and Chhattisgarh Move towards Amicable Settlement of Mahanadi Water Dispute.
  - **Origin:** The River originates from the Sihawa range of hills in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh.
  - The river is bounded in the north by Central India hills, in the south and east by the Eastern Ghats, and in the west by the Maikal hill range.
  - The Mahanadi basin extends over the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.
  - It is considered to be one of the most active silt-depositing streams in India.
  - **Tributaries:** Its main tributaries are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib, Ong, and Tel.
  - **Hirakud Dam:** The Hirakud Dam, the world's longest earthen dam (26 km), is constructed across the Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur in Odisha.
- ### Cloudburst
- A cloudburst over the Kheer Ganga River (a tributary of Alaknanda River) led to flash floods in Uttarkashi district.

**About cloudburst**

- If 10 cm rainfall is received at a station in one hour, the rain event is termed as cloud burst.
- They are difficult to predict due to their small scale and short duration.
- Monitoring requires dense radar networks or high-resolution weather models.
- Though possible in plains, they are more common in hilly areas due to the terrain.
- National Disaster Management Plan, 2019, provides for Cloudburst Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy.

**Urban Forest**

- **Context:** The Supreme Court issued a stay on deforestation in Hyderabad's Kancha Gachibowli forest amid massive protests against state-led land auction for IT development.
- Kancha Gachibowli is one of Hyderabad's last remaining urban forests.

**Significance of Urban Forest**

- **Environmental:** Provides air and water purification, carbon sequestration, temperature regulation, and biodiversity conservation. E.g., Delhi Ridge acts as a green lung for the city.
- **Social:** Improves physical and mental health, reduce stress, boost activity, and enhance social cohesion.
- **Economic:** Increases property values, attract tourism, and support local businesses and development.
- **Climate Resilience:** Help adapt to climate change by reducing heat, flooding, improving air quality, and enhancing biodiversity.

**Initiatives taken by government**

- **Nagar Van Udyan Program:** To create 200 urban

forests, involving local communities, schools, and organizations in their development and maintenance.

- **School Nursery Yojana (SNY):** To connect children with nature by involving them in growing saplings at school nurseries.
- **Miyawaki Forest Plantation:** To create dense, self-sustaining forests using native species, enhancing ecosystems and thriving in urban areas.
- **Greening Guidelines:** Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs requires cities to maintain a minimum of 12-18% green cover.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY****Largest Asian tortoise reintroduced in Nagaland community reserve**

- Asian giant tortoise - largest tortoise in mainland Asia and critically endangered.
- **Location:** Reintroduced into the Zeliang Community Reserve, Peren district, Nagaland. The species was once abundant in Nagaland.
- The event was a collaborative effort between the Nagaland Forest Department and the India Turtle Conservation Programme.
- **Reintroduction Method:** The tortoises were initially placed in a "soft-release enclosure" to develop site fidelity before full dispersal.

**'Microplastic' pollution**

- The primary sources of microplastic pollution along the Indian coastline are riverine inputs and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), via the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), conducted a study from 2022 to 2025.

- **West coast:** 19 transects from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
- **East coast:** 25 transects from Puri (Odisha) to Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)
- **Microplastic Definition:**
  - Plastic particles sized 1 micrometre to 5 millimetres
  - Primary microplastics: manufactured at that size
  - Secondary microplastics: formed from breakdown of larger plastics.
- **Wastewater Treatment:** Biochar offers a low-cost and effective method to reduce pollution, with one kilogram capable of treating 200-500 liters of wastewater.
- **Carbon Capture:** Modified biochar can be used to adsorb CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial exhaust gases, though its efficiency is currently lower than conventional methods.

## The Potential of Biochar in India

- **What is Biochar?**
- Biochar is a carbon-rich charcoal made from agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste.
- It is a sustainable waste management solution and a carbon capture method.

### Byproducts & Energy Potential:

- **Syngas (20–30 million tonnes):** could generate 8–13 TWh of electricity (0.5–0.7% of national total)
- **Bio-oil (24–40 million tonnes):** could offset 12–19 million tonnes of diesel/kerosene use
- Potential to **replace 0.4–0.7 million tonnes of coal** and reduce **>2% of fossil-fuel-based emissions**

### Its potential extends to several sectors:

- **Carbon Sequestration:** Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100 to 1,000 years, acting as a long-term carbon sink.
- **Agriculture:** Applying biochar to soil can improve water retention, abate nitrous oxide emissions (which have 273 times the warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>), enhance soil organic carbon,

## Great Barrier Reef has recorded its largest Coral Bleach

- The Great Barrier Reef has experienced its most significant yearly drop in coral cover in nearly four decades, caused by widespread coral bleaching, cyclones, and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish.

### Coral Bleaching

- A stress response in corals when symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) are expelled from coral tissues.
- Loss of algae removes the coral's main food source and colour, leaving it pale or white.
- Bleaching does not always kill coral, but prolonged stress can lead to mortality.

### Great Barrier Reef (GBR)

- The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is the largest coral reef system globally.
- **World Heritage:** The GBR is also a habitat for endangered species like the dugong and the large green turtle. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, it was added to the list in 1981.

## India has set an example in Lion conservation

- **Population increase:** 2025 census shows Asiatic lion numbers rose to 891 from 674 in 2020.
- **Project Lion:** Launched in 2020 & aim to secure Asiatic lions through habitat improvement and advanced monitoring with radio-collars and cameras.
- Asiatic lions are only found in India - Gir National Park and the surrounding Gir Forest in the state of Gujarat.
- **Conservation leadership:**
- India undertakes conservation for 5 of 7 big cat species.
  - Asiatic lions found only in Gir, Gujarat.
  - Tiger reserves increased from 47 to 58, hosting 70% of global tiger population.
  - Snow leopard population in India: 714.
  - Successful rehabilitation of African cheetahs.
  - Projects: Project Lion, Tiger, Elephant, Dolphin, Great Indian Bustard.
- **Global initiatives:** Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), International Solar Alliance, International Big Cat Alliance.

## Operation Falcon

- Operation Falcon is a joint initiative by Assam Police and Forest Department, launched last year to combat rhino poaching.
- Assam has 2,895 rhinos (2022 census), mainly in Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve (2,613 rhinos).
- Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Manas

National Park and Tiger Reserve have 125, 107 and 50 rhinos, respectively.

## AI-Based Animal Warning System

- The Union government is planning to implement an AI-based early warning system across all railway lines passing through or near forests.
- The system aims to prevent wildlife deaths, including elephants, tigers, and other animals, caused by train collisions.
- The initiative is inspired by the successful AI system in **Madukkarai, Tamil Nadu**, which has enabled 2,800 safe elephant crossings with zero train collisions since February 2024.
- AI, radio collars, and satellite technology are being used to mitigate human-animal conflict.
- **Gaj Gaurav Awards Presented To:** Forest staff and mahouts from Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu for their contribution to elephant care and protection.

## E20 Petrol

- A scheme to reduce environmental pollution and increase farmers' income by mixing 20 percent ethanol extracted from sugarcane or corn with petrol.
- E20 fuel is the government's initiative to mix 20% ethanol with petrol for use as fuel in vehicles. This program is part of India's broader strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, promote biofuels, and reduce carbon emissions.
- E20 petrol fuel provides enhanced propulsion.
- **Using E20 Petrol:** E20 petrol gives about 30 percent lower carbon emissions than E10 petrol.

# INDIAN POLITY

## Vice Presidential Election: Electoral Roll Finalized by Election Commission

### ▪ Election Procedure

- The election is conducted under Article 66(1) of the Constitution using the Proportional Representation System by means of a single transferable vote through secret ballot.
- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college comprising the elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, as well as the elected members of the Lok Sabha.
- Article 324 - The Election Commission is mandated to conduct the election to the office of the Vice-President of India.
- As per Article 68(2) of the Constitution, in the event of death, resignation, or removal of the Vice President before the completion of the 5-year term, the vacancy must be filled as soon as possible through an election.
- The Vice Presidential election must be completed within 30 days from the date of official notification.

### ▪ Eligibility Criteria to Contest

- Must be an Indian citizen, Must be at least 35 years of age, Must be eligible for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Tenure** : The newly elected Vice President will serve a **5-year term**.
- Even after the term ends, the Vice President can continue in office until the next Vice President is elected, as permitted by the Constitution.

## Central Water Commission (CWC)

- It is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources.
- It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Functions:**
  - The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating, and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation, and utilization of water resources throughout the country for purposes of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply, and Water Power Development.
  - It also undertakes the investigations, construction, and execution of any such schemes as required.

## Notary Portal

- Government has launched the Notary Portal as a dedicated online platform for services under the Notaries Act, 1952 and Notaries Rules, 1956.
- **Objectives:** The objective of the Notary Portal is to provide an online interface between the Notaries appointed by the Central Government and the Government of India for various services like,
  - Submission of applications for appointment as Notaries,
  - Verification of eligibility for appointment as Notaries,
  - Issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice as a Notary,

- Also renewal of certificate of practice, change of practice area, submission of annual return etc.
- The Notary Portal provides a faceless, paperless, transparent and efficient system.

### **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)**

- The Election Commission (EC) has delisted 334 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) for non-compliance.
- As per guidelines under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a party not contesting elections for six consecutive years is removed from the registered list.
- The delisting meant that these parties would not be eligible for any benefit under,
- The provisions of Section 29B and Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951
- The relevant Sections of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

### **About Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)**

- RUPPs are political entities registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, but not yet recognised as State or National parties.
- Privileges: They enjoy income tax exemptions and can receive political donations, even without electoral participation.

### **Recognised Political Parties**

- Currently, 6 national parties and 67 state

parties are registered as recognized parties with the Election Commission.

▪ **State Party:** A registered party must meet any one of the following:

- **6% Vote + 2 Assembly Seats:** The party must secure at least 6% of the valid votes polled in the Legislative Assembly election and win at least 2 seats in that Assembly.
- **6% Vote + 1 Lok Sabha Seat:** It must win at least 6% of valid votes in the Lok Sabha election held in that state and secure 1 seat in Lok Sabha from that state.
- **3% of Assembly Seats or 3 Seats Minimum:** The party must win at least 3% of the total Assembly seats, or at least 3 seats (whichever is higher) in the Legislative Assembly.
- **1 of Every 25 Lok Sabha Seats:** The party must win 1 Lok Sabha seat out of every 25 seats allocated to the state.
- **8% Vote Share:** It must secure at least 8% of the total valid votes in a state, either in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, even if it wins no seats.

▪ **National Party:** A registered party must meet any one of the following:

- **6% Vote in 4 States + 4 Lok Sabha Seats:** The party must secure at least 6% of valid votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four or more states, and win at least 4 Lok Sabha seats from any states.
- **2% Lok Sabha Seats from 3 States:** It must win at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats (currently 11 out of 543), and those seats must be from at least 3 different states.

- Recognized as State Party in 4 States: If a party is recognized as a State Party in four or more states, it automatically qualifies as a National Party.
- Cadaver Transplant Programme was made a Government Society in May 2015 and named as Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

### **Women & Kin of Deceased Donors to Get Priority in Organ Transplants**

- National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) issued a 10-point advisory to States/UTs.
- **Aim:** Address gender imbalance in organ transplant recipients and encourage organ donation.
- **Priority to be given to:**
  - Women patients on the waiting list (via additional allocation points).
  - Relatives of deceased donors awaiting organ transplants.

### **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization**

- It is a national-level organization set up under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi.
- The establishment of NOTTO is mandated as per the Transplantation of human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Act of 2011.

### **TRANSTAN**

- Tamil Nadu is one of the first States to initiate Cadaver Transplant in 1995 after the Transplantation of Human Organs Act was passed in the year 1994.
- Cadaver Transplant Program was started by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar.M.Karunanidhi in the year of 2008.

- President of TRANSTAN – Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

### **Vice President Election**

- Articles – 63 to 73
- Article 63 explicitly states, "There shall be a Vice President of India."
- Under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and its rules, and as per Article 324 of the Constitution, the Election Commission is responsible for conducting the election.
- This election is for the office of Vice President, who also serves as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

### **Qualifications**

- To be eligible, a candidate must be an Indian citizen, be at least 35 years old, and be qualified to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

### **Electoral College**

- The Vice President is elected by an electoral college consisting of all members of both Houses of Parliament – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – including nominated members.

### **Proportional Representation:**

- The election uses the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

## Joint Sitting of Parliament

- There are two main types of joint sittings in the Indian parliamentary system.
- First is the presidential address under Article 87 and
- Second is the resolution of legislative deadlocks under Article 108.

## LS Speaker Initiates Removal Process

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has started the process to remove Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma.
- **Three-Member Inquiry Panel Formed:** Birla has formed a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the charges against Justice Varma. The committee includes Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, and senior advocate B.V. Acharya.
- **Legal Framework:** The process is being conducted in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968 and is based on articles 124, 217, and 218 of the Constitution of India.
- Article 124 focuses on the Supreme Court, outlining its establishment, composition, and the appointment and removal of its judges.
- Article 217 covers the appointment and conditions of office for High Court judges.
- Article 218 extends the removal process for Supreme Court judges (as outlined in Article 124) to High Court judges, with necessary modifications.

## Habeas Corpus

- It is a Latin term which literally means 'to have the body of'

- This writ is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
- The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals.
- The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the:
  - Detention is lawful, The proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
  - Detention is by a competent court, and
  - Detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.
- Article 32: Right to Constitutional Remedies – Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Quo Warranto, Prohibition, Certiorari.

## IRDAI

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is an autonomous and statutory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Created under the IRDAI Act 1999.
- It aims to regulate and license insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

## SARFAESI Act

- The SARFAESI Act, officially called the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, was enacted in 2002.
- This act is an important part of Indian law that allows banks and financial institutions to recover bad loans (non-performing assets) primarily by enforcing security interests without court intervention.

## One Nation, One Election

- The 129th Constitutional Amendment Bill to conduct simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies across the country, and the legal amendment bill to conduct Union Territory Assembly elections along with Lok Sabha elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The Central Government formed a high-level committee under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind in 2023 to study the feasibility of this scheme.
- This committee submitted its report to the Central Government in 2024.

## National Sports Governance Bill 2025

- Through the new bills, the sports sector will function in a competitor-centered manner.
- There will be transparency in federation administrations and disputes will be resolved immediately.
- The participation of women and differently-abled competitors will also increase.
- The key features of the National Sports Governance Bill include:
  - Establishing a National Sports Board to effectively manage national federations.
  - Establishing a National Sports Tribunal to resolve disputes
  - Establishing a National Sports Election Committee to ensure proper conduct of federation elections.
- Age relaxation for competitors in administrative responsibilities

- Bringing national federations under the purview of the Right to Information Act.

## POCSO Act 2012

- To protect all children under 18 years of age from sexual harassment regardless of gender, the POCSO Act was introduced in 2012.
- Under Section 22(1) of the POCSO Act, if someone is falsely accused, they can be sentenced to imprisonment up to 6 months, fine, or both according to Indian law.

## Supreme Court Collegium Cannot Dictate High Court Appointments

- **Supreme Court Collegium cannot dictate HC Collegiums:** CJI B.R. Gawai clarified that the SC Collegium can only recommend, not dictate, judicial appointments to High Courts.
- **High Court Collegiums have the "first call":** They decide whom they want as judges; SC can only suggest names.
- **Equality in federal judiciary:** SC and HCs are neither superior nor inferior to each other.

## Indus Water Treaty (IWT)- 1960

- The Indus Water Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960, is an important water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, mediated by the World Bank.
- It divides the waters of the Indus River system, allocating the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India and the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) primarily to Pakistan, allowing India to limit non-consumptive uses in the western rivers.
- As part of Operation Sindh, the Indus River Water Treaty has been suspended

## INDIAN ECONOMY

### MPC holds repo rate at 5.5%

#### Policy Rates Unchanged:

- The MPC voted to maintain the policy repo rate at 5.50%.
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5.25%.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate remain at 5.75%.
- This decision is towards achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth.

#### About Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate

- The repo rate is the interest rate charged by the RBI when commercial banks borrow money from it.
- The reverse repo rate is the rate at which the central bank pays interest to commercial banks for parking their excess cash.
- Higher repo rate → Costlier loans for banks → Higher interest rates for consumers & businesses → Slower borrowing & spending.
- Lower repo rate → Cheaper loans for banks → Lower interest rates for borrowers → Increased borrowing & spending.

#### Committee related to Monetary Policy

- **Chakravarty Committee (1982-85):** It was set up by the then RBI Governor Manmohan Singh under Sukhamoy Chakravarty to review monetary policy.
- **Urjit Patel Committee (2014):** It formalized inflation targeting, setting the 4% target ( $\pm 2\%$  band), a target first proposed by the Chakravarty Committee 40 years ago.

### Indian Agriculture Achievements

- India ranks first in the production of milk, pulses, and jute.
- India is second in the production of rice, wheat, cotton, fruits, and vegetables.
- India is also the world's second-largest producer of fish.
- Last year, India recorded its highest-ever food grain production.

### Digital Transactions

- Among those who have bank accounts across the country, 54% use digital transactions.
- In 2014, the Central Government introduced the 'Jan Dhan' scheme for everyone to have bank accounts for direct transfer of subsidies to bank accounts, and savings accounts without minimum deposit were started for the underprivileged.
- From then began India's digital transaction revolution.

### Capital expenditure

- Tamil Nadu is among the States that saw a decline in capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2025-2026.
- Capital expenditure (capex) goes towards creation of fixed assets, such as roads and bridges, irrigation structures, schools, and hospitals, besides investments in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- It helps in improving economic activity and generating employment.

### India's Export Achievements

- India is now among the world's top five mobile phone exporters.
- Automobile exports have doubled, placing India among the world's top four automobile exporting countries.

## TAMIL NADU

### Madurai Tamil Sangam

- Originally known as Senthamil Kalasalai – 4th Tamil Sangam.
- Founded as a nationalist initiative by Pandithurai Thevar to promote Tamil language and culture.
- He announced it at the Madras session of the Indian National Congress in 1901.

### Bharathiyar

- 1908 - Bharathiyar published Swadesa Gitangal (Songs of Motherland), stirring patriotic fervour.
- He was the editor of the Tamil weekly India.
- 1920 - He became an assistant editor at Swadesamitran.

### Raja of Panagal's Temple Administration Reforms

- Precursor to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.
- 1922: Raja of Panagal, then Chief Minister, proposed legislation to bring temples under state supervision.
- The proposal received approval from Viceroy Lord Irwin.
- 1927: Establishment of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Board.
- Aimed at regulating temple administration and finances.

### Kombu

- Kombu is a traditional Tamil wind instrument, shaped like a curved horn, historically used in battles and temple festivals

- One of the verses that mention this instrument is found in Thirumurai.
- Silappathikaram, written around the 6th Century, also has a mention of the kombu.
- The 12th canto in Madurai Kanda of Silappathikaram, also known as Vettuva Vatri, describes a dance being performed to the accompaniment of parai, kulan, and kombu.

### Rajendra Chola I : From Eelamandalam to Kadaram

#### Conquests and Naval Campaigns

- Rajendra Chola I ascended the throne in 1012 CE.
- He launched a decisive campaign against Sri Lanka in 1017 CE, completing his father Raja Raja Chola I's mission.
- Captured King Mahinda V, seized royal regalia, and made Sri Lanka a Chola province.
- His conquest extended Chola authority throughout Polonnaruwa and established Tamil-style temples.

#### Southeast Asian Campaign – Kadaram

- In 1025 CE, after the Gangetic campaign, Rajendra launched a naval expedition to Southeast Asia, targeting Srivijaya.
- Kadaram (present-day Kedah, Malaysia (Malay Peninsula)) was captured, earning him the title "Kadaram Kondan".
- Sangrama Vijayottungavarman, Srivijaya's ruler, was taken prisoner.
- No direct rule was established; local rulers were reinstated after acknowledging Chola supremacy.

#### Chola Naval Strength

- Maintained a well-organised navy used for both military and trade.

- Campaigns showcased the Cholas' ability to project power across the Bay of Bengal.
- Loss and Reassertion
- 1029 CE: Vikkamabahu I, son of Mahinda V, led a successful Sinhalese rebellion, ending Chola control in Sri Lanka.
- Rajendra's successor, Virarajendra I, claimed to have reconquered Kadaram, indicating temporary control.
- Legal and Administrative Provisions
- Legal Recognition and issuance of ID documents.
- State will amend inheritance laws (Hindu Succession Act, Indian Succession Act) to guarantee right to inheritance for transgender and intersex persons.
- State to ensure implementation of laws against gender-based violence by family, intimate partners, and others.

### **Diplomacy and Trade**

- Diplomatic ties with Srivijaya and China were active before and after conflict.
- Chudamani Vihara in Nagapattinam was built with support from Srivijaya's ruler.
- Karandai copper plates mention the King of Kambhoja (Angkor/Khmer Empire) sending a war chariot as a gesture of friendship.
- All educational institutions must update name and gender in academic records per the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

### **Housing and Shelter**

- Short-stay homes will be facilitated for trans and intersex persons in crisis situations.
- Preference in affordable housing schemes and free house site pattas will be given.

### **Legacy**

- The Chola overseas campaigns were bold and unprecedented, extending political and cultural influence beyond India.
- While many gains were temporary, the campaigns left a lasting legacy in cross-cultural engagement and maritime prestige.

### **Education & Employment**

- Inclusive access to education.
- Skill development and employment opportunities ensured.

## **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons 2025**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released the Tamil Nadu State Policy on July 31, 2025.

### **Aim**

- To create a safe, inclusive, equal, and just society for transgender and intersex persons.
- Recognizes self-identification, ensures bodily autonomy, and seeks to eliminate discrimination and violence.

### **Healthcare**

- Non-discriminatory access to quality healthcare services.
- Safe living conditions and focus on mental health.

### **Justice, Representation, and Support**

- Guarantees social justice, grievance redressal, and political representation.
- Public awareness and sensitization campaigns planned.

### **Beneficiaries**

- Applies to transgender women (Thirunangai), transgender men (Thirunambi), and intersex individuals.

### **Governance & Monitoring**

- A State-level High-Level Committee (led by Chief Secretary) will meet every 6 months to review progress and make recommendations.

- District-level Committees (led by District Collectors) will meet every 3 months for local implementation and monitoring.

### **‘Nalam Kakkum Stalin’ camps**

- Launch Date: August 2, 2025, in Chennai.
- Objective:
  - To provide advanced medical services and check-ups to marginalized people, particularly in underserved areas.
  - This is an extension of previous health schemes like 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' and 'Nammai Kaakkum 48'.
- These camps will be held every Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM in each district.
- The initiative is being implemented at a cost of Rs.12.78 crores.
- A total of 1,256 camps would be organised in all 38 districts of the State.
- Beneficiaries include those earlier screened under the Ungaludan Stalin outreach.

### **Bharatanatyam**

- It is the traditional dance of Tamil Nadu.
- The word "Bharatam" is said to have originated from three words: Bhava, Rasa, and Tala.
- The grammatical components of Bharatanatyam were explained by Sage Bharata Muni.
- During the medieval period, the dancers who performed this art in temples were called Talicheri Pendugal.
- The current form of Bharatanatyam was refined by the Thanjavur brothers, Ponniah Pillai.

### **‘School of Semiconductor’ Initiative**

- Pioneering Initiative: It's a new program for India's technology sector, with the goal of

building a globally competitive semiconductor workforce in Tamil Nadu.

- **Key Component:** The first major action under this initiative is the creation of a Centre for Advanced Semiconductor Technologies.
- **Unique Feature:** This centre will have India's first "in situ" semiconductor fab processing facility, a small-scale production-grade fab that will aid in research, skilling, and technology localization.
- **Partnerships:** The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Tamil Nadu government, IIT Madras, and major corporate partners in the semiconductor industry.
- **Funding:** The Tamil Nadu government will provide an initial seed grant of ₹100 crore.
- **Location:** The proposed centre will be located at the Central Polytechnic Campus in Chennai.
- **Training and Goals**
  - The centre will train over 4,500 candidates through specialized 2–6-week modules.
  - The training will focus on practical applications in key sectors like electric vehicles, data centres, and space technology.
  - The initiative aims to develop human capital across all levels, from technicians to managers, and support a range of activities from fabless design to start-ups and R&D.
- **Broader Vision:** The goal is to make Tamil Nadu an indispensable source of highly-skilled talent for the semiconductor industry, both nationally and globally.
- **Collaboration:** The initiative will also explore collaboration with the Union Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- **Implementation:** The Department of Industries and the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation will work together to implement the initiative.

### "Nalam Kakkum Stalin" program

- **Inter-Departmental Collaboration:** Multiple government departments will be involved, including:
  - Social Welfare and Women Empowerment
  - Labour Welfare and Skill Development
  - Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare
- **Program Review:** The initiative will be monitored at different levels:
  - A state-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary will review the program.
  - Collectors will be responsible for reviewing its implementation at the district level.
  - The functioning of the camps will be reviewed on a weekly and monthly basis.

### Tamil Nadu's engine of progress : Education for all

- Education is the foundation of Tamil Nadu's social and economic progress.
- It serves as a tool of social justice and equal opportunity, particularly for marginalised communities.

### Historical Legacy

- 1920: First school mid-day meal served in Thousand Lights, Madras, inspired by P. Theagaraya Chetty.
- 1921: Justice Party's Communal GO opened up access to education for marginalised communities.

### Impressive Education Indicators

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education:
  - Tamil Nadu overall: 47%
  - National average: 28.4%
  - TN women: 47.3%
  - National women's average: 28.5%

### Flagship Schemes

- **Pudhumai Penn Thittam:** Provides a monthly stipend of ₹1,000 to girl students from government or aided schools pursuing higher education, helping to increase female enrollment.
- **Illam Thedi Kalvi:** Launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to bridge learning gaps among vulnerable communities.
- **Breakfast Scheme:** An extension of the long-standing meal programs, this scheme provides free breakfast to primary school students, improving attendance and nutrition.

### Veergalai Thedi

- **Launch Date:** May 24, 2023 (Singapore).
- **Objective:** To enable young overseas Tamils to experience and feel pride in their Tamil heritage, culture, and history.
- **Eligibility:** Tamil youth aged 18 to 30 years from foreign countries.
- **Organised by:** Directorate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

### "Delete caste column from appraisal forms: T.N. police panel"

- The Tamil Nadu Fifth Police Commission, led by Justice C.T. Selvam, recommended removing caste/community references from

Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) of police personnel.

- This move aims to eradicate caste conflicts and promote uniformity within the police force

### **Key Recommendations of the T.N. Police**

#### **Commission**

- Remove Caste from Appraisals – Delete caste columns from police ACRs to prevent bias; not used for IPS officers.
- End Caste Inquiries – Stop asking for the caste of complainants or accused at police stations.
- Curb Caste Discrimination – Hold all-party meetings to remove caste names from streets and village markers.
- Form SICs – Create Special Intelligence Cells in caste-sensitive districts to monitor caste-related tensions.
- Ensure Balanced Postings – Avoid over-posting police from dominant castes in sensitive areas to prevent bias.

#### **Blue Flag beach**

- Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the eco-restoration infrastructure developed at Marina Beach under the Blue Flag Certification programme.

#### **The Blue Flag initiative**

- It is a globally recognized eco-label accorded by the Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE).
- The Blue Flag programme was started in France in 1985 and in areas out of Europe in 2001.
- Marina is the latest addition to Tamil Nadu's list of beaches being upgraded for Blue Flag recognition, following the certification of Kovalam beach in Chengalpattu.
- The other Indian beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod

and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha, Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches, Minicoy Thundi Beach – Lakshadweep and Kadmat Beach- Lakshadweep.

### **'Regional Investment Conclave - T.N. Rising'**

- Context: The Tamil Nadu government and the Singapore-based Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) Group are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for a new man-made fibre plant in Thoothukudi.
- The Thoothukudi conclave is the first regional investment event under the 'T.N. Rising' initiative.
- More such conclaves to be held across Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in Tamil Nadu to tap into district-level economic potential.
- It will support the State's textile industry and strengthen local supply chains.

### **VinFast's first EV plant in India at Thoothukudi**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated VinFast's first EV manufacturing plant in India at Thoothukudi on August 4, 2025.
- **Location** : SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Sillanatham, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- **Manufacturing Hub** : "Chennai is India's Detroit."
- **EV Contribution** : 40% of EVs sold in India are manufactured in Tamil Nadu.
- **Skill Development** : Jobs provided to local youths through the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

## **Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP)**

- It is India's first State-led climate fellowship programme.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP) on August 21, 2023, at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- The scheme was announced as part of the 2021-22 Budget for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- The program aims to provide a platform for young individuals who are passionate about environmental conservation, renewable energy, biodiversity protection, and sustainable living.
- It emphasizes the role of youth in shaping policy and highlights the government's commitment to a "greener future."
- The fellows will also be introduced to the three missions of the State- Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.
- Each Fellow will receive a monthly stipend of ₹60,000 and an allowance of Rs.15,000 for travel within their district.

## **Tamil Nadu's organ donation initiative**

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare praised Tamil Nadu's initiative of according State honours to brain-dead organ donors.
- The Directorate-General of Health Services (DGHS) noted it had immensely impacted the deceased donor transplant programme.

## **Impact of the State Honours Initiative**

- Launched in September 2023.
- It is "first-of-its-kind" Government Order, which resonated deeply with the public and increased awareness.

## **Record-Breaking Donations in 2024**

- The DGHS noted that Tamil Nadu had its highest-ever number of donations in 2024.
- For the first time, government institutions contributed more to the program than private hospitals (54.48% vs. 45.52%).

## **Donations occurred in 26 government institutions, including from remote colleges like Nilgiris Medical College.**

### **Other Proactive Measures**

- 'Honour walk' in hospitals for donors.
- Development of detailed protocols for all aspects of organ donation.
- Personal appreciation notes from TRANSTAN after each donation.
- Periodic multi-level reviews to strengthen the programme.

## **Mudhalvar Padaippagam**

- Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments announced that 45 'Mudhalvar Padaippagam' hubs will become operational in Chennai by November 2025.

## **About Mudhalvar Padaippagam**

- It is a flagship initiative of the Tamil Nadu government, launched under the "Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam" (North Chennai Development Scheme).
- Aim: To bridge the gap in access to education and employment opportunities for the youth, particularly in underserved urban areas like North Chennai.

- Managed by: Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and Greater Chennai Corporation.
- 45 centres planned in Chennai, with 26 already functional (as of August 2025).

### TN Rising Investors Conclave in Thoothukudi

- Thoothukudi was chosen as the host city for the inaugural edition of TN Rising.
- The Tamil Nadu government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for 41 projects with a total investment of ₹32,554 crore.
- Out of the 41 projects, 19 are in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, with a combined investment of ₹265.15 crore.
- 4 commercial production projects inaugurated in: Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kancheepuram.
- Four new projects were announced specifically for Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, including:
  - A 256-acre space park in Thoothukudi.
  - A dedicated shipbuilding industry in Thoothukudi.
  - A common facility center for moringa export in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, at a cost of Rs.5.59 crore.
- **Existing projects:**
  - Desalination plant – Thoothukudi
  - TIDEL Park – Madurai & Thoothukudi
  - PM Mitra Park – Virudhunagar
  - TATA Power Solar & Vikram Solar – Tirunelveli

### Tamil Nadu's Real GSDP Growth (2024–25)

- Growth Rate: 11.19% in real terms – highest among States.
- First double-digit real growth in 14 years (last was 13.12% in 2010–11).
- Exceeds Tamil Nadu Budget forecast of 9% real growth by 2.2 percentage points.
- Based on revised estimates from the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (as of August 1, 2025).
- Tamil Nadu is the only State to achieve double-digit real growth in 2024–25.
- Uttar Pradesh - 8.99%; Andhra Pradesh - 8.21%; Telangana - 8.08%; Karnataka - 7.37%; and Maharashtra - 7.27%.
- Real GSDP for 2024–25: Rs.17,32,189 crore (base year: 2011–12).
- **Growth in previous years:**
  - **2023–24:** Revised upward from 8.23% to 9.26%.
  - **2022–23:** Revised downward from 8.13% to 6.17%.
- Strong growth driven by: Tertiary sector (services) and Secondary sector (industry/manufacturing)

### Per Capita Income (2024–25)

- Tamil Nadu: ₹3,61,619
  - Rank: 3rd among major States.
  - Behind Telangana (₹3,87,623) and Karnataka (₹3,80,906).

### Future Outlook

- Achieving \$1 trillion economy target by 2031–32.
- Improvement in fiscal health (lower deficits, improved debt-GSDP ratio).

- Potential 12% growth in 2025–26 if all sectors perform slightly better.

### **State records 1,303 Nilgiri Tahrs in second annual synchronised population survey**

- The survey was a collaborative effort with the Kerala Forest Department and was conducted in April.
- It covered 177 blocks in Tamil Nadu (36 more than in 2024).
- **Primary Strongholds:**
  - Grass Hills National Park: Recorded 334 Tahrs, an increase from 276 in 2024.
  - Mukurthi National Park: Recorded 282 Tahrs, up from 203 last year.
  - Transit Population: An estimated 155 Nilgiri Tahrs were observed as a transit population, moving towards Kerala's Eravikulam National Park.

### **Significance & Conservation**

- Survey included first-ever threat assessment of the species
- Helps understand conservation challenges
- Supports Project Nilgiri Tahr, a major species conservation initiative in Tamil Nadu

### **Third phase of Maaperum Tamil Kanavu**

- According to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu The third phase of the initiative began on August 6.

### **About Maaperum Tamil Kanavu Initiative**

- It is a flagship cultural and educational initiative launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- **Aim:** To make the younger generation aware of ancient Tamils, their culture and literature,

need for an egalitarian society and the employment opportunities available to them, among others.

- **Phase 1:** Launched in 2023 – covered select institutions and laid the foundation. Initially held in three cities: Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai.
- **Phase 2:** Expanded in 2024 – reached more colleges with deeper engagement.
- **Phase 3 (Aug 2025):** Aims to benefit over 2 lakh students across 200 colleges.

### **Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme**

- Families with senior citizens above the age of 70 and persons with disabilities will be provided essential commodities at their doorstep, will be launched on August 12 in Chennai.
- Monthly delivery on the second Saturday and Sunday of each month.
- This scheme not only improves the livelihood of the underprivileged sections but also ensures their food security.
- The data for this scheme have been collected from the Department of Food and Consumer Protection, and given to ground-level officials in the rank of Sub-Registrar.
- A total of 21,70,454 beneficiaries attached to 16,73,333 family cards under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The scheme specifically targets ration cards where all members are above 70 years of age with no member of 18, and cards where all members are disabled or only one member is disabled, with no other adult member aged 18 or above.

### **Kalaigiar Student Journalists Scheme and Kalaigiar Financial Aid Scheme for Scholars**

- Launched on 07, August 2025 by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in Chennai
- To mark the 7th death anniversary of former Chief Minister Kalaigiar M Karunanidhi.
- Aims to train youth in journalism.
- Youngsters will be trained through Murasoli and Kalaigiar Television channel.
- Each year, 15 scholars will be selected and awarded Rs 1 lakh each in installments.
- The selected works will be published as books through Muthamizh Arignar publications.

### **Thanjavur's Sarasvati Mahal Library**

- The Tamil Nadu State government has officially declared Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library a library of historical and cultural importance.
- It is now classified as an aided library under the Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Rules, 1950.
- Grants to Sarasvati Mahal Library will fund research, publications, manuscript conservation and digitisation, upkeep, and administration, according to a notification by the School Education Department.

### **Historical Background**

- Located inside the **Thanjavur Palace**.
- One of the **oldest libraries in Asia** and among the greatest Oriental manuscript libraries in the world.
- Collection began in the **16th century** under the **Nayak rulers** of Thanjavur (1535–1675 CE).
- Greatly expanded by the Maratha dynasty, especially by **Raja Serfoji II (1798–1832)**, a noted bibliophile.

### **Tamil Nadu setting up a desk for Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**

- Tamil Nadu will establish a dedicated desk to fast-track clearances for research and development-focused Global Capability Centres (GCCs).
- The move aims to attract multinational firms looking to expand or relocate their GCCs to Tamil Nadu.
- Industries Minister Dr. TRB Rajaa announced this at the GCC Next Summit 2025 in Chennai.
- The initiative is part of building a thriving R&D ecosystem in Chennai.
- **The GCC Next Summit 2025**, themed "Future-Ready GCCs: How AI is Reshaping Global Capability Centers," gathered over 900 senior executives.

### **Free Bus Travel in Tamil Nadu**

- In Tamil Nadu, this scheme came into effect in 2021.
- In ordinary local buses running within a 30 km radius, women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities can make use of this facility.
- Through this, it becomes easier for women to go shopping and to work.
- Their socio-economic status also improves.
- According to government data, every day, 57 lakh women travel across the state, and through this, each person is able to save Rs.888 per month.

### **Kamban Vizha '25**

- Organised by the Chennai Kamban Kazhagam.
- **Releases & Awards:**
  - Released **Kamban Kalai Kalanjiyam book**.
  - **Kavi Chakravarthi Kambar Award** - Vairamuthu (poet & lyricist).

- **Iyattramizh Arignar Award** – **Key Measures:**
  - T.Gnanasundaram, Pazha. Pazhaniappan, Saradga Nambi Arooran, Suki Sivam, Ilankai Jeyaraj.
  - Scholarships, residential hostels.
  - Barrier-free infrastructure (ramps, accessible toilets).
- **Kambar Kalainaya Chelvar Award** –
  - S.P.Muthuraman (film director).
  - Inclusive curriculum & teaching materials.
  - Annual Equity Audits to assess fairness.

## TAMIL NADU STATE EDUCATION POLICY- 2025 SCHOOL EDUCATION

### Vision

- Create an inclusive, equitable, resilient, and future-ready school education system.
- Rooted in Tamil culture, language, and social justice principles.
- Evolving policy – review every 3 years, annual update on "Future Readiness".

### Historical Achievements

- **Near-universal enrolment** at primary & upper primary levels.
- **Dropout rate** – Zero at primary/upper primary; 7.7% at secondary.
- Strong welfare measures: free textbooks, uniforms, midday meals, bus passes.
- Literacy rate among highest in India; gender parity in enrolment.

### Emerging Challenges

- **Digital divide** between rural-urban and rich-poor students.
- Learning gaps post-COVID, especially in early grades.
- Need for future-ready skills (AI, robotics, entrepreneurship).
- Persistent inequities for SC/ST, minorities, first-gen learners.

### Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

- Target Groups: SC, ST, minorities, CwSN (Children with Special Needs), first-generation learners.

### Basic Literacy & Numeracy (BLN)

- Ennum Ezhuthum Mission – Achieve Class 3 reading & arithmetic proficiency.
- Age-appropriate assessments and remedial teaching.
- Play-based & activity-based learning.
- Special focus on rural, tribal, and disadvantaged areas.
- Community reading campaigns; "Library Day" twice yearly.

### Curriculum & Pedagogical Reform

- Shift from rote learning → competency-based, experiential, inquiry-driven learning.
- **Strengthen Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** and critical thinking.
- Integration of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage in curriculum.

- **Multilingual policy:** Tamil compulsory till Class 10 (per Tamil Learning Act 2006).

- Mother tongue in early childhood education for concept clarity.

- **Broadened pedagogy:** arts, sports, projects, field visits.

### 21st Century Skills, Future Skills, and Digital Literacy

#### Core Skills:

- Critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving.
- Financial literacy, environmental awareness, civic responsibility.

- Global citizenship mindset.
- TN-SPARK programme: AI, robotics, coding in schools.
- Expand blended learning - Kalvi TV, Manarkeni App.
- Promote climate literacy & entrepreneurship education.
- Address urban-rural digital gaps.
- Assessment Reforms
- Move from high-stakes exams to formative, diagnostic evaluation.
- Use project work, peer & self-assessment.
- No-Detention Policy for Classes 1-8 continues.
- Bridge courses for students with learning gaps.
- Learning outcome monitoring at school level.
- Teacher Capacity-Building
- Payirchi Paarvai digital platform for training.
- Peer mentoring & modular skill development courses.
- Leadership training for school heads.
- Specialised training for teachers in tribal & hilly areas.
- Focus areas: inclusive education, digital pedagogy, socio-emotional learning.
- Safe & Inclusive Schools
- Promote child rights & gender sensitivity.
- Strengthen mental health support - school counsellors, helplines.
- Physical fitness & traditional sports integration.
- Magizh Mandram - student clubs for arts, environment, leadership.
- Fully equipped science & computer labs.
- Barrier-free access for Children with Special Needs.
- Green campuses: solar power, rainwater harvesting.
- Model Schools & Vetri Palligal - excellence hubs to be scaled state-wide.

### **Community Engagement & Decentralised Governance**

- **Namma School Namma Ooru Palli** initiative for alumni & local body participation.
- Strengthen **School Management Committees (SMCs)**.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnerships for funding & mentoring.
- Encourage localised planning and transparent school monitoring.

### **Conclusion**

- Policy blends **equity, cultural pride, and modern innovation**.
- Aims to ensure every child in Tamil Nadu:
  - Learns with dignity.
  - Grows with confidence.
  - Thrives in a **rapidly changing, interconnected world**.

### **Sponge parks**

- Three major open spaces in Chennai - Elango Nagar in Padi, Secretariat Colony in Thoraipakkam and an open space reservation site near Vyasarpadi Jeeva Railway Station - are to be developed into sponge parks by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).
- The project will be part of Blue-Green Infrastructure plan announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025-26.

### **Resilient & Sustainable Infrastructure**

- Upgrade to smart classrooms with digital boards.

- Sponge parks are engineered wetlands designed to mimic natural ecosystems by absorbing, storing, and filtering rainwater, helping to manage stormwater and mitigate urban flooding.
- It states the isolated Nilgiri tahr population (nine) in the division is connected to Kerala's Elival Mala region.

### **Kalaiginar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme**

- A 1,000-year-old stone sculpture of Ardhanarisvara, which was stolen from the Viruddhagireeswarar temple in Vriddhachalam, will be put on public display at the temple.
- A study titled "A Right to Care, A Right to Welfare" by the Laws of Social Reproduction project found that 49% of KMUT beneficiaries used the assistance to buy household goods.

### **About Kalaiginar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) Scheme**

- The sculpture is considered a significant example of Chola artistry, which flourished from the 9th to the 13th century CE.
- The sculpture depicts Ardhanarisvara, a composite form of the Hindu deities Shiva and his consort, Parvati.
- Launched by the Tamil Nadu government in September 2024.
- Provides monthly cash assistance of ₹1,000 to eligible women.
- Aims to recognise and support women's unpaid domestic and care work.
- Women, who have completed 21 years of age (born before September 15, 2002), are eligible to apply for the scheme.

### **The second synchronized survey of Nilgiri Tahr**

- According to the survey report released recently, a Nilgiri tahr was sighted at Chinnaattumalai after a decade.
- This indicates a potential recovery of this habitat and dispersal of the species to the connected landscape.
- The population was nil in last year's synchronised survey.
- The survey mentions that Kurudimalai is a historical habitat, with its description as a home for a herd of mountain goats found in Thiruppugazh, written by the Tamil saint-poet Arunagirinathar.
- The report says forest fires, pilgrimage, and invasive species are major threats to the Nilgiri tahr habitats in the division.
- Only one-woman member in a ration card is eligible to apply.

### **Parambikulam - Azhiyar Project**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that, the Neeraru-Nallaru and Anaimalai projects, the next phase of the Parambikulam-Aliyar irrigation project, which is a long-standing demand of farmers in Tiruppur, will be implemented soon.
- The Parambikulam - Azhiyar project has been implemented to divert water that originates in the Western Ghats at the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border and flows westward into the sea, for use in agriculture in both states.
- This project came into operation in 1962 with the cooperation of both state governments.

## Rameshwaram Infrastructure Development Project

- The Pamba Canal connecting the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar helps small ships like fishing boats to trade by sea route.
- It connects the eastern and western parts of India by sea route. The current depth in this canal is only 2.0 meters.
- After IIT Chennai (National Institute of Technology for Ports, Coasts, Waterways and Oceans) submitted a detailed project report, the central government was urged to provide financial assistance for this project with 100 percent subsidy under the Sagar Mala scheme to ensure east-west connectivity by sea route in southern India.

## Agal Vilakku scheme

- **Objective:** To ensure the safety of girl students in the digital space.
- **Target Group:** Girls in Classes 9 to 12 in Tamil Nadu.
- **Focus:** Empowering students with tools for protection from mental, physical, and social challenges, with a strong emphasis on cyber safety.
- The scheme reflects the government's commitment to creating a safe and supportive digital environment for adolescent girls.

### Implementation:

- Awareness booklets have been launched by the school education department.
- Committees of teachers and students will be formed to identify and address problems faced by girl students.
- Teachers trained in career guidance will also receive additional training to raise awareness about safe internet use.
- Counselling will be provided to students.

## Pension Committee in Tamil Nadu

- A committee led by senior IAS officer Gagandeep Singh Bedi has been formed by the Tamil Nadu government to study pension schemes for government employees and teachers.
- The committee was formed in February 2025 by the Tamil Nadu government to review three pension schemes:
  - Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS)
  - Old Pension Scheme (OPS)
  - Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)
- CPS was implemented in Tamil Nadu for employees joining from April 1, 2003.
- The National Pension System (NPS) was introduced by the Union government from January 1, 2004.
- Many State government employees have demanded the resumption of OPS, which was applicable before April 1, 2003.
- The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) was introduced by the Union government on January 24, 2025, in response to OPS demands. Those who complete 25 years of government service are eligible to join this scheme.
- The committee is expected to submit its report by September 30, 2025.

## Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme

- **Date:** 12.8.2025
- **Place:** Thandayarpuram, Chennai.
- Scheme to provide ration items by going to homes of elderly and differently-abled people
- A pilot scheme was implemented to directly provide ration items to homes of people over 70 years living alone and differently-abled people.

- Following this, it was decided to implement the scheme throughout the state.
- The scheme will be implemented on the second Saturday and Sunday of every month.
- Details of family cards and beneficiaries eligible for this scheme have been obtained from the Food Supply and Consumer Protection Department and sent to field officers.
- This scheme provides for 1090 treatment methods including treatment methods for infants, 8 continuous treatment procedures, and 52 examination methods.
- This scheme is designed to benefit all ages from infants to elderly.
- **Benefits:** Under this scheme, a family can receive treatment free of charge up to Rs.5,00,000/- per year in approved hospitals.

### **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme**

- The government has permitted the inclusion of mental health asylum residents under the Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme without any documents including Aadhaar and identity proof.

### **About Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme**

- **Aim:** To provide life-saving medical treatments free of charge to poor and low-income people in government and private hospitals, the Chief Minister Kalaingar Insurance Scheme for life-saving advanced treatments was started by the Tamil Nadu Government on 23.07.2009.
- The Union Government's Prime Minister's Public Health Scheme has been implemented in integration with the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme since 23.09.2018.
- Currently, this scheme is being implemented through United India Insurance Company.
- About 1.37 crore families (from January 2022) are benefiting from the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme.
- 800 government and 900 private hospitals have been approved for treatment.

### **ST.N. to provide health insurance for mental health homes' inmates"**

- Tamil Nadu government will enroll all inmates of registered mental health homes under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- Aimed at helping inmates who may suffer from cardiac conditions, fractures, hernias, or require medical management.
- Inmates will get access to medical and surgical treatment in government and empanelled private hospitals.

### **Tamil Nadu's new HAWK platform**

- The Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) is a new platform launched by the Tamil Nadu forest department to combat forest and wildlife crimes.
- It was launched in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and NTT Data.
- Launched on August 12, 2025 (World Elephant Day).
- HAWK is a real-time crime management system that utilizes advanced technology, data analytics, and artificial intelligence to serve as a centralized intelligence and monitoring system for the state.
- It aims to streamline documentation, improve decision-making, and enable proactive

responses to wildlife crimes by making crime reports instantly available to all users across the state.

### Hero Stone

- A 13th century warrior's hero stone was discovered near Mettur.
- The earliest and oldest of such memorial Hero stones is found in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu is more than 2400 years old that is 4th Century BC.
- The largest concentration of such memorial stones is found in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- A Sati stone, which is believed to be at least 300 years old was unearthed from Tirupur city, Tamil Nadu in 2021.

### Lending Institutions (Prohibition of Coercive Collection) Act 2025

- The 'Tamil Nadu Government Lending Institutions (Prohibition of Coercive Collection) Act 2025' came into effect last June.
- According to this act, going to the borrower's home or workplace and threatening, behaving inappropriately, engaging in violence, forcibly confiscating properties - those from private financial institutions engaging in such activities will face maximum imprisonment up to five years and maximum fine up to five lakh rupees.
- If borrowers are subjected to mental distress and driven to suicide, ten years imprisonment.

### Tamil Nadu's Role in the Indian Freedom Struggle

- Tamil Nadu played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle through armed resistance, social reforms, and mass movements.

### Early Resistance (18th Century)

- Queen Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga: Fought the British with her sword.
- Puli Thevan (1751): First to raise the war cry against British rule from Nelkattumseval.
- Veerapandiya Kattabomman (Panchalankurichi): Resisted British rule; captured and hanged at Kayathar in 1799.
- Dheeran Chinnamalai: Fought and won battles against British at Kaveri banks and Odanilai; later hanged at Sankagiri Fort in 1805.

### Vellore Sepoy Uprising (1806)

- Sparked by religious and dress restrictions imposed by British.
- 1,500 sepoys rebelled; nearly 100 Englishmen were killed.
- Considered a precursor to the 1857 First War of Independence.

### Assassination of Robert Ash (1911)

- Vanchinathan killed British Collector Robert Ash at Maniyachi Railway Station.
- Marked a major turning point in the freedom struggle.

### 20th Century Freedom Movement

#### Key Leaders:

- V.O.Chidambaram - Launched Indian shipping company.
- Subramania Bharathi (Bharathiyar) - Used journalism for awareness.
- Subramania Siva, Sankaralingam, V.V.Subramania Iyer, M.P. Sivagnanam, P.Ramamurthy, Jeevanandham, P. Kakkan, Thiru.Vi. Kalyanasundaram, Quaid-e-Millat, Rajaji, K. Kamaraj, Ambujathammal, K.B.Janaki Ammal, Mu. Bhaktavatsalam, and others.

- **Bharathiyar's newspapers:** 'Sudeshamithran' and 'India' played a vital role in spreading nationalist ideas.
- **Tiruppur Kumaran (1932)**
  - Died protecting the national flag during a protest.
  - Became a symbol of sacrifice and patriotism.
- **Mass Participation:** Students, workers, farmers, women, artists - all united to fight British rule.

### Kanchipuram

- Known as the Temple City.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of handloom weaver cooperative societies in India.
- The original silk sarees produced in Kanchipuram are known for their heavier weight across three leaves (layers) and the incorporation of various technical weaving methods.
- This saree has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

### Tamil Kanavu Initiative

- A cultural outreach event titled Tamil Kanavu was conducted in Chennai with participation from students of 10 colleges, aimed at creating awareness about Tamil heritage.
- The Tamil Kanavu campaign was launched in 2023 by the Tamil Virtual Academy and Higher Education Department, on the occasion of former Chief Minister Anna's memorial day.

- It aims to benefit 2 lakh students from 200 colleges across Tamil Nadu.

### Waste-to-Energy Projects in Tamil Nadu

- Under the waste-to-energy initiative, power is being generated from garbage using:
  - Boilers and gas engines
  - Bio-CNG: Purified biogas/natural gas for transport fuel use
  - Biomass gasifier: For thermal and power applications

### Blue Flag project

- Three new beaches to be developed under the Blue Flag certification programme: Thiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam and Uthandi.
- **Funding:**
  - ₹6.02 crore per beach.
  - Funded by Tamil Nadu: Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy Project, supported by the World Bank.

### The Blue Flag initiative

- It is a globally recognized eco-label accorded by the Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE).
- The Blue Flag programme was started in France in 1985 and in areas out of Europe in 2001.
- Marina is the latest addition to Tamil Nadu's list of beaches being upgraded for Blue Flag recognition, following the certification of Kovalam beach in Chengalpattu.
- The other Indian beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala,

Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden- Odisha, Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches, Minicoy Thundi Beach - Lakshadweep and Kadmat Beach- Lakshadweep.

### **Six-Point Scheme for Sanitation Workers in Tamil Nadu**

- This scheme will be initially implemented in the Chennai Corporation and gradually extended to other urban local bodies.

#### **Features:**

- Medical Assistance: Early detection and treatment of occupational diseases like lung and skin ailments.
- Insurance & Death Benefit: Rs. 5 lakh insurance; families receive Rs. 10 lakh in case of death during service.
- Self-Employment Support: 35% grant (up to Rs. 3.5 lakh) for business; 6% interest subsidy on timely loan repayment; Rs. 10 crore allocated annually.
- Educational Assistance: Financial help for tuition, hostel, and books for workers' children.
- Housing: 30,000 urban units in 3 years; rural workers prioritized under "Kalaingar Kanavu Illam."
- Breakfast: Free breakfast for sanitation workers in local bodies.

### **Vetri Schools Scheme**

- In Tamil Nadu, the scheme will be implemented in 236 blocks with an allocation of Rs. 111 crore in the current academic year.

- Government Model Schools were launched in 2021-22, and currently, 38 district-level schools are functioning.

- The scheme ensures government school students get opportunities to enter premier institutions.

- Best practices from district model schools will be scaled to block level.

- 500 Vetri Schools will be created across 414 blocks.

- One government higher secondary school in each block will be upgraded with modern facilities like smart classrooms.

#### **Special Features:**

- Weekly classes by higher education mentors, preparation materials for entrance into premier institutions, video lessons, and direct teacher training will be provided.

- Students in Plus 2 from all government higher secondary schools in the block can attend these sessions.

- Around 50,000 students are expected to benefit, increasing representation in premier institutions.

### **New Welfare Scheme for Government**

#### **Employees**

- In case of accidental death or disability at work, insurance cover of Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 10 lakh financial assistance for families with two daughters, and up to Rs. 10 lakh as higher education incentive will be provided.

## Independence Day Announcements by Tamil Nadu CM – 9 New Initiatives

- The monthly pension provided to the freedom fighters by the state government will be increased from Rs. 21 thousand to Rs. 22 thousand.
- The family pension provided to the families of the freedom fighters will be increased from Rs. 11,500 to Rs. 12 thousand.
- The monthly special pension for the descendants of Veera Pandiya Kattabomman, Ramanathapuram King Muthuramalinga Vijayaragunatha Sethupathi, Sivagangai Marudhu Brothers, and V. Uchidambaranar will be increased to Rs. 11 thousand.
- The lifetime monthly financial assistance provided to the ex-servicemen from Tamil Nadu who participated in the Second World War will be increased to Rs. 15 thousand.
- The lifetime monthly financial assistance provided to the spouses of the soldiers who participated in the Second World War and died will be increased to Rs. 8 thousand.
- A hostel with infrastructure facilities will be built at Madhavaram, Chennai for the convenience of ex-servicemen from Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 22 crore.
- The free Vaidya Jatra scheme implemented in the hilly areas of Tamil Nadu will be extended to the differently-abled.
- One training center will be started at the state level, two at the zonal level and one training school per district for driving training.
- While the children of workers registered with the Construction Workers Welfare Board are studying in college, online skill development training will be provided to improve their skills and get employment.
- **Free transportation for differently-abled in hilly buses Travel Plan:** The Chief Minister announced that a free morning travel plan for the differently-abled will be implemented in hilly buses.

## NATIONAL - NEWS

### Indus Valley Civilization Found in Rajasthan Desert

- A new Harappan site has been discovered in the deep desert region of Rajasthan, near Ratadiya Ri Dheri in Jaisalmer district.
- It's located about 60 km from Ramgarh (India) and 20 km from Chandanwala (Pakistan).
- Dating of site: Archaeologists date the settlement to the mature urban phase of the Indus Valley civilization i.e. 2600 to 1900 BCE.
- This is the first concrete evidence of Indus Valley presence in the interior desert of Rajasthan.
- The discovery adds Rajasthan to the global map of early urban civilizations.
- Until now, Pilibanga in northern Rajasthan was the state's most prominent Harappan site, discovered by Italian Indologist Luigi Pio Tessitori in the early 20th century.
- This site offers a crucial link between Harappan settlements in Gujarat and northern Rajasthan.
- It helps redefine the geographic spread of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Highlights long-distance trade and resource exchange during Harappan times.
- It backs up theories that changing rivers – and disappearing water sources – shaped where people could live back then.
- It provides insights into:
  - Rural-urban dynamics
  - Environmental adaptation
  - Regional interactions of ancient civilizations

#### Findings

- A large quantity of fragmented pottery is scattered across the site, including red ware, slipped red ware, bowls, jars, and perforated vessels.
- Stone blades (8–10 cm) likely made from chert sourced from Rohri, Pakistan
- Terracotta cakes, grinding stones, clay and shell bangles, and other urban artifacts
- A kiln structure is discovered on the site's southern slope, featuring a central column – similar to kilns found at Kanmer (Gujarat) and Mohenjo-daro.
- The wedge-shaped bricks are also unearthed, which likely served in constructing circular walls and kilns, along with typical Harappan-style bricks.

### Bio-Fortified Potatoes in India

- Bio-fortified potatoes enriched with iron will soon be introduced in Indian markets.
- Developed by the International Potato Center (CIP), based in Peru.
- Bio-fortified sweet potatoes with added vitamin A are already being cultivated in: Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal and Odisha.
- Bio-fortification = Nutrient-rich crops developed through farming science.

### Organ Donation in India

- India ranks third globally in organ transplants, as highlighted by the Ministry of Health &

Family Welfare (MoFHW) at the 15th Organ Donation Day in New Delhi.

- **Legal Framework:** The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) 1994 regulate organ transplants and bans commercial trade.
- The 2023 revised guidelines eliminated the upper age limit and the state domicile requirement for deceased donor registration.
- **National Programme:** The National Organ Transplant Programme by the MoFHW promotes organ donation via a nationwide coordination network.
- **Apex Body:** The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, under the MoHFW, establish policies, protocols, and manage the national organ registries.

### **Initiatives for Organ Transplantation**

- **One Nation One Policy:** Launched in 2024 to standardise age limits, domicile criteria and registration fees for organ transplants across states.
- **Aadhaar-Linked Portal:** Introduced in 2023 to facilitate digital donor pledges through Aadhaar-based identity verification.
- **Angdaan Jan Jagrukta Abhiyan:** Started in 2024 to raise public awareness and dispel social myths.

### **Tamil Nadu in Organ Donation**

- Recognized as a model state in organ donation and transplantation.
- TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu) manages a digital and centralised

allocation system, ensuring transparency and fairness.

- This is the India's first organ transplantation authority.

### **Free Bus Travel for Women**

- The free bus travel scheme for women was first started in Delhi in 2019. This scheme is also operational in states including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Punjab
- Following 7 states, from August 15th, it is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh as well.
- To reduce environmental pollution, increase social equality, and for economic welfare, the European country Luxembourg made public transport facilities free for everyone in 2020.

### **Kartavya Bhavan (Kartavya Path Project)**

- Under the Central Vista Project in New Delhi, old government office buildings are being replaced with new central secretariat buildings named 'Kartavya Bhavan', located near Kartavya Path.
- The Kartavya Bhavan-3 building was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

### **Vizhinjam International Seaport**

- **Location:** It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala. Expected to be completed by 2028.
- It is India's first dedicated transshipment port and also the country's first semi-automated port.

- **Public-private partnership (PPP) mode** - It is operated by the Adani Group, with the Kerala government holding the majority stake.
- **Features:**
  - The breakwater at Vizhinjam is the deepest in India and stretches nearly three kilometres. It has a natural draft of around 20 metres.
  - It also features India's first home-built, AI-powered Vessel Traffic Management System, developed with IIT Madras.
  - It is equipped with fully automated yard cranes and remotely operated ship-to-shore cranes for faster and safer operations.
  - Unlike most Indian ports, Vizhinjam experiences minimal sand movement along the coast (littoral drift), which reduces maintenance costs

literature Rabindranath Tagore, and others took up art and literature to highlight the greatness of Indian soil and criticize British rule.

- Following the Sepoy Mutiny that began in Meerut in 1857, referred to as India's first war of independence, British domination was expressed through folk songs, dramas, and stories.
- In Tamil Nadu, liberation sentiment was carried to the people through Villupattu and street theater arts.
- The 'Swadesamitran' newspaper where Mahakavi Bharathiyar worked sowed national sentiment among the people.
- Poet Bharathidasan, dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale, painter Abanindranath Tagore who painted 'Bharat Mata'.

### Theme of Independence Day Invitations

- This year's invitation cards feature:
  - "Operation Sindoor" printed on the top right corner
  - A sketch of the Chenab Railway Bridge in the centre, replacing the Central Vista design.
- The Chenab Bridge, recently inaugurated by Prime Minister, is the world's highest railway arch and connects Kashmir by rail to the rest of India.

- Poet Allama Iqbal who wrote the song 'Sare Jahan Se Accha'
- Indian film director Dadasaheb Phalke and many others fought for Indian liberation through art.

### Prime Minister Key announcements in his Independence Day Address

- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra:** India will be building an air defence system by 2035 to not only shield military and civilian areas but also to strike back in a precise, targeted manner.
- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:** The scheme would give a one-time grant of Rs.15,000 to first-time employees in the private

### Poets in the Indian Independence Struggle

- In the 1850s, social reform thinker Raja Rammohun Roy, Nobel Prize winner for

- sector and incentives to the private sector to create employment
- **Made-in-India semiconductors:** India will launch 'Made-in-India' semiconductor chips by the end of 2025.
  - **Semiconductor units:** 6 operational, 4 more approved.
  - **Nuclear energy capacity:** India will aim at increasing its nuclear energy capacity 10-fold via its 10 nuclear energy plants by 2047.
  - **GST Reform:** The Centre has proposed to reduce the number of GST slabs, specifically by eliminating the 12% and 28% tax brackets.
  - **High-Powered Demography Mission:** To tackle illegal infiltration affecting population demographics, protecting youth livelihoods, and safeguarding national unity.
  - **National Deep Sea Exploration Project:** To discover oil and gas resources in the ocean.
  - **Priority to Domestic Production:** In defense, energy, modern technology, pharmaceuticals, and fertilizers.
  - **Reform Task Force:** A dedicated Reform Task Force will be formed to drive the next generation of reforms in the country, with a view to accelerating economic growth.

### Humayun's Tomb

- **Location:** Nizamuddin East, Delhi, India
- **Built for:** Mughal Emperor Humayun (reigned 1530–1540, 1555–1556)
- **Commissioned by:** Empress Bega Begum, Humayun's widow, in 1569–70

- **Architect:** Mirak Mirza Ghiyas, a Persian architect
- **Style:** Persian-Mughal architecture; precursor to the Taj Mahal
- **Structure:**
  - Double-domed mausoleum
  - Set in Charbagh (four-part) gardens
  - Features red sandstone with white marble detailing
- **UNESCO Status: World Heritage Site (1993)**
- **Significance:**
  - First garden-tomb in India
  - Influenced later Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal
  - Tomb complex includes several smaller monuments for other Mughal royals and nobles

### FASTag

- The National Highways Authority of India, a central government agency, on 15, August 2018 launched the FASTag travel card facility, which private vehicles can get by paying a fee of Rs 53,000.
- Under the FASTag annual travel card facility, private vehicles can cross the toll plazas for a year or 200 times by paying a one-time fee of Rs 3,000.
- Under this facility, the FASTag annual travel card will be activated within 2 hours by paying Rs 3,000 through the Rajmark Yatra app or the National Highways Authority of India website.

## NATIONAL SCHEMES

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- The Union Cabinet increased the budgetary outlay for the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) by ₹1,920 crore to ₹6,520 crore to boost the food processing sector.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- The Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) was approved by the cabinet in May 2017.
- The scheme has now been renamed as the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)".
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- **Objective:** The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.
- **Components of PMKSY**
  - Mega Food Parks
  - Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure
  - Creation/Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities
  - Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters
  - Scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages

- Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure
- Human Resources and Institutions

### Prime Minister's Employment Scheme for Developed India

- The Central Government's Ministry of Labour and Employment has introduced an incentive scheme linked with employment to create new job opportunities
- In this scheme, first-time job seekers receive up to Rs. 15,000 as incentive
- This scheme has been introduced to create 3.5 crore job opportunities in various sectors including manufacturing by July 2027
- Through this, both the employing management and first-time job recipients will receive incentives
- The first phase of this scheme is being implemented from April 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) launched in May 2016.
- **Objective:** To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes, etc.
- **Eligibility:** An adult woman belonging to a poor household and not having an LPG connection in her household will be eligible under UJJWALA 2.0.
- Eligible as per the SECC 2011 list.

## Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the implementation of the MERITE Scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented in 275 technical institutions, including 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics, across all States and Union Territories.
- **Objective:** To enhance the quality, equity, and governance of technical education by implementing interventions that aligns with the National Educational Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).
- It is a 'Central Sector Scheme' with the total financial implication of Rs.4,200 crore for a period from 2025-26 to 2029-30.
- **Funding:** ₹2,100 crore of the total budget will be an external loan from the World Bank.
- **Curriculum:** The scheme aims to develop multidisciplinary programs, and create relevant, labour market-aligned curriculums and blended courses.
- **Employability:** The initiative will focus on enhancing students' skills and employability through internships, updated curricula, faculty development programs, and the establishment of research hubs and innovation centres.

## PM E-DRIVE

- The government has extended the PM E-DRIVE Scheme for two years, from March 2026 to March 2028.

- The extension applies to specific categories of vehicles, including electric buses, e-ambulances, and e-trucks.

## About PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- **Launch date:** October 1, 2024.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- **Objective:** Encourage EV adoption, reduce environmental impact from transport, and support domestic EV manufacturing.
- **Subsidies:** Incentives for e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and other EVs.

## Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE)

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launches SPREE 2025 to Expand Social Security Coverage The scheme is active from 1st July to 31st December 2025.

## Purpose:

- To bring left-out establishments and workers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme.
- **Encourages self-registration of:** Unregistered employers and Employers who haven't registered all eligible employees
- **Employers:** Factories/establishments with 10 or more workers in ESI-implemented areas.
- **Employees:** Drawing wages up to Rs.21,000/monthTamil Nadu's.

## Key Features

- One-time special initiative
- No penalties, no retrospective contribution demands

- No inspections for the previous unregistered period
- Aimed at regularizing workforce and expanding social security coverage
- **Ranking:** Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country after Maharashtra in the number of insured persons, with nearly 43.77 lakh individuals covered.

### **Ayush Ministry and FSSAI release a list of 'Ayurveda Ahara' food preparations**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the Ayush Ministry, has released a list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the category of Ayurveda Ahara.
- It refers to foods developed according to Ayurvedic dietary guidelines, focusing on balance, seasonal suitability, and natural ingredients and herbs with therapeutic benefits.

### **Digital India Programme**

- Digital India is a flagship program of the Government of India, launched on July 1, 2015.
- Objective: To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- Digital India is improving the lives of all citizens by providing digital services,

expanding the digital economy, and creating job opportunities.

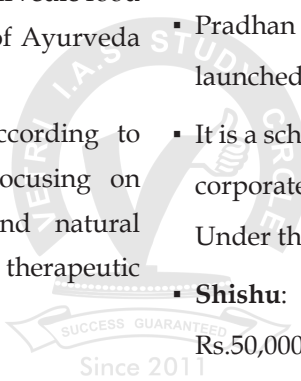
- 50% of the world's real-time financial transactions are processed through India's UPI

### **Make in India Programme**

- **Launched:** September 25, 2014
- **Objective:** To facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure, make it easier to do business, and enhance skill development.

### **Prime Minister Mudra Scheme**

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched on April 8, 2015.
- It is a scheme aimed at providing loans to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. Under this scheme:
  - **Shishu:** This category covers loans up to Rs.50,000.
  - **Kishor:** This category covers loans from Rs.50,000 to Rs.5 lakh.
  - **Tarun:** This category covers loans above Rs.5 lakh and up to Rs.10 lakh.
  - **Tarun Plus:** This category covers loans above Rs.10 lakh and up to RS.20 lakh.



## REPORTS & INDICES

### Household Consumption Expenditure Survey

- The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey gives a different perspective. According to HCES 2023-24, per capita monthly consumption expenditure is Rs. 6,996 in urban India and Rs. 4,122 in rural India.
- These expenses can be divided into food and non-food categories.
- Compared to previous years, food expenses have decreased. Among non-food expenses, transport expenses are highest at 14 percent.
- Bus travel expenses constitute one-fifth of transport expenses.

### India Justice Report (IJR)

- Covers justice, police, prison, and legal services. The data is based on parameters such as budget allocations by central and state governments, human resources, workload, and infrastructure.
- Released by Tata Trusts in collaboration with various civil society organizations and data partners.
- This report highlights shortcomings in government departments and the improvements needed.
- In this report, Karnataka ranks first overall, with a score of 6.78 out of 10 in all four sectors. However:
  - **Police:** Karnataka ranks third, Telangana first, and Tamil Nadu 13th.
  - **Prisons:** Tamil Nadu first, Karnataka second, Kerala third.
  - **Justice Delivery:** Kerala first, Telangana second, Tamil Nadu third.
  - **Legal Services:** Karnataka first, Punjab second, Haryana third, Tamil Nadu 16th.

## COMMITTEES

### Tamil Nadu State Education Policy for School Education

- As an alternative to the Central Government's New National Education Policy 2020, a 14-member committee headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice D.Murugesan was formed in 2022 to design a specific education policy for Tamil Nadu
- This report was submitted to the Tamil Nadu Government on July 1, 2024
- The state education policy report has been divided separately into higher education and school education.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### Dr. M.S. Swaminathan International Award for Food and Peace

- A new international award in Dr. Swaminathan's name for Food and Peace will be launched to honour scientists from developing nations (Global South).
- The award will be jointly instituted by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and the World Academy of Sciences.
- It carries a cash prize of USD 25,000 (approx. Rs. 20.75 lakh).
- Indian Prime Minister will present the first award during the M.S. Swaminathan's centenary event.
- **Best Supporting Actor (Male)** - Vijayaraghavan (Pookkaalam - Malayalam), M.S. Bhaskar (Parking - Tamil)
- **Best Supporting Actor (Female)** - Urvashi (Ullozhukku - Malayalam), Janki Bodiwala (Vash - Gujarati)
- **Best Music Direction** - G.V. Prakash Kumar (Vaathi - Tamil) Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal - Hindi)
- **Best Playback Singer (Male)** - PVNS Rohit - "Premisthunna" (Baby - Telugu)
- **Best Playback Singer (Female)** - Shilpa Rao - "Chaleya" (Jawan - Hindi)
- **Best Cinematography** - Prasantanu Mohapatra (The Kerala Story)
- **Best Editing** - Midhun Murali (Pookkaalam)
- **Best Production Design** - Mohandas (2018: Everyone is a Hero - Malayalam)
- **Best Sound Design** - Sachin Sudhakaran & Hariharan Muralidharan (Animal)

### 71st National Film Awards

- **Best Feature Film** - 12th Fail
- **Best Director** - Sudipto Sen (The Kerala Story, Hindi)
- **Best Popular Film** - Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani - Karan Johar
- **Best Debut Film of a Director** - Ashish Bende - Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)
- **Best Film on Social/Environmental Values** - Sam Bahadur
- **Best Children's Film** - Naal 2 (Marathi) - Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti
- **Best Animated/Visual Effects/Gaming Film** - Hanu-Man (Telugu)
- **Best Actor (Male)** - Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- **Best Actor (Female)** - Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)
- **Best Choreography** - Vaibhavi Merchant (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani - "Dhindhora Baje Re")
- **Best Action Direction** - Nandu Prudhvi (Hanu-Man)
- **Best Make - Up & Costume** - Sam Bahadur
- **Best Screenplay** - Sai Rajesh Neelam (Baby - Telugu)
- **Best Dialogue** - Deepak Kingrani (Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai)
- **Best Non-Feature Film** - Flowering Man (Hindi)
- **Best Documentary** - God, Vulture and Human
- **Best Director (Non-Feature)** - Piyush Thakur - The First Film

- **Best Script (Short Film)** - Sunflowers were the First Ones to Know – Chidananda Nayak (Kannada)

### **PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha sets Guinness World Record**

- The latest edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha" (PPC) has been awarded a Guinness World Record.
- **Record Title:** The record is for the "Most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month."
- Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Jitin Prasada received the award.
- **Participation Numbers:** The event recorded over 3.53 crore (35.3 million) registrations and a television viewership of more than 21 crore (210 million).
- **Organizers:** The initiative, which started in 2018, is organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with MyGov.
- **Leadership:** The annual event is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is designed to provide a platform for students, teachers, and parents to discuss academic stress and other related topics.

### **Awards**

- **Kavichakravarthi Kambar Award was given to poet Vairamuthu.**
- **'Yartamizh Arignar' (Classical Tamil Scholar) Award was presented to:**
  - Prof. The. Gnanachundaram
  - Kamban Adi Soody Pazha. Pazhaniyappan
  - Prof. Sharada Nambi Arooran
  - Sugi Sivam
  - Ilangai Jayaraj

### **M.S. Swaminathan Annual Award for Food and Peace**

- Indian Prime Minister presented the first M.S. Swaminathan Annual Award for Food and Peace to Nigerian scientist Ademola A. Adenle.
- **Established by:** M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- **Purpose:** To honour the legacy of Professor M.S. Swaminathan, widely regarded as the "Father of the Green Revolution" in India.
- **Recognition:** Given to individuals with outstanding contributions in agriculture, nutrition, food systems, and peace building.

### **Independence Day Award List**

#### **Best Municipal Corporations:**

- Avadi
- Namakkal

#### **Best Municipalities:**

- Rameswaram
- Rajapalayam
- Perambalur

### **'Equator Prize'**

- **Recipient:** Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group from Dharwad district, Karnataka.
- **Award:** Equator Prize by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – also called the Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation.
- **Recognition for:** Eco-friendly farming practices.
- **Purpose of award:** Honours nature-based solutions led by indigenous and local communities; presented annually.

### **Chief Minister's Award for best-performing local bodies**

- It was presented to Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar and

Adyar zones under the Greater Chennai Corporation.

- Given annually during Independence Day celebrations.
- Aims to motivate local bodies and foster competitive spirit in service delivery.

### Police Medals

- For distinguished service, President's Police Medal awarded to Additional DGP P. Balanagadevi, IGS G. Karthikeyan, S. Lakshmi.
- 21 people awarded for special service: SPs A. Jayalakshmi, S. Vimala, etc.

### Armed Forces Medals

- 167 armed personnel awarded for gallantry.
- Across India, 1,090 medals announced for police, fire service, home guards, and correctional services.
- **Tamil Nadu:** 32 recipients.
- **Operation Sindoor:** 18 border security personnel received gallantry awards.
- **Awards:** Kirti Chakra-4, Veer Chakra-15

### 'Takaisal Tamilar'

- The Takaisal Tamilar Award is given to those who have made a great contribution to the development of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil nation.
- The Takaisal Tamilar Award was given to the national president of the Indian Union Muslim League, K.M. Kader Mohideen

### 'Dr. A.B.J. Abdul Kalam Award'

- The A.B.J. Abdul Kalam Award for Science and Technology is being given
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan was given the Dr. A.B.J. Abdul Kalam Award
- V. Narayanan - V. Narayanan, who has served in many important leadership positions in

ISRO for 41 years and has now risen to its chairman, has been given the A.B.J. Abdul Kalam Award for Science and Technology.

### Kalpana Chawla Award - Tulasimathi Murugesan

- The Kalpana Chawla Award is given for courage and adventure.
- Kalpana Chawla Award was given to Tulasimathi Murugesan from Kanchipuram district, who has achieved success in badminton despite having a left-hand tendon degeneration disorder, without considering physical challenges as a barrier.

### Good Governance Awards

- The Chief Minister's Good Governance Award is given to officers and officials who have implemented projects in government departments through unique ideas and initiatives.
- For rural development initiatives that bring about change through community participation
- Tirunelveli district Assistant Superintendent of Police V.Prasannakumar, Taluk Officer P.Ya. Lakrishnan, Block Development Officer V. Yamuna

### Government Departments

- Adi Dravidian and Tribal Welfare Department
- Housing and Urban Development Department.
- Highways and Minor Ports Department - For the construction of a glass bridge at the Kanyakumari seafont
- Tamil Virtual Education Society
- Awards to individuals and institutions providing excellent service and employment

for the welfare of the differently-abled:

- Doctor Kumaravel Shanmugasundaram from Trichy,
  - Ekcomwel Company from Salem district,
  - Gunasekaran Jagatheesan from Coimbatore district,
  - Bell Printers Company from Virudhunagar district,
  - Kanchipuram District Central Cooperative Bank
- Government awards to those working excellently for the welfare of women:
- Chennai District Social Servant Bhagirathi Ramamoorthy,
  - Su.Mari Muthu from Virudhunagar district,

- Surunalaya Social Service Institute from Chennai district,
- Society for Education Village Action from Trichy district

### State Youth Award

▪ The Chief Minister's State Youth Awards are given annually to three young men and three women who are involved in various social works in the state.

- Paralympic athlete Mariyappan
- Carrom player Kazima
- Villupuram district Chandurukumar
- Tirunelveli district M. Jayakumar
- Pudukkottai district A. Lavanya
- Krishnagiri district Ku. Gouri

## EMINENT PERSONALITIES

### 100th birth anniversary of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

- He is a father of India's Green Revolution.
- Dr. Swaminathan was instrumental in ending food insecurity in India and ensuring equitable nutrition.
- To mark the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, an international conference will be held in Delhi from August 7 to 9.
- Theme of the conference: "Sustainable Green Revolution – A Life in Harmony with Nature."
- **Organised by:** M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).

### Commemorative Releases:

- Postage stamp and coin featuring Dr. Swaminathan.
- A tribute book titled "Book of Tributes" compiled by The Hindu Group.

### M.S. Swaminathan

- Known as the '**Father of Green Revolution**'
- 2023 - Bharat Ratna
- He laid the foundation for the country's Green Revolution and also gave importance to Organic Farming.
- 'M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace' has been established
- He was a pioneer in developing climate-suitable crop varieties

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Hepatitis Day 2025

- World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28.
- Theme: "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down".

### International Tiger Day

- International Tiger Day is celebrated every year on July 29 to raise awareness about tiger conservation, protect their natural habitats, and advocate for measures to prevent their extinction.
- **Theme:** "Roar for Tigers" and "Save Tigers, Save Forests, Save Life".
- India, home to nearly 75% of the world's wild tigers, leads in conservation through initiatives like Project Tiger (1973), focusing on protected reserves, anti-poaching, and habitat restoration

### 11th National Handloom Day

- The 11th National Handloom Day is being celebrated on August 7, 2025 across the country under the coordination of the Ministry of Textiles.
- **Theme :** "Weaving Innovation into Tradition."
- The Indian handloom industry is one of the oldest and most vibrant cottage industries globally, with 95% of the world's handwoven fabric coming from India.

### Historical Significance

- National Handloom Day commemorates the Swadeshi Movement, launched on August 7, 1905.
- The Swadeshi Movement was a response to the British decision to partition Bengal.

- Handlooms became a symbol of resistance and self-reliance during India's independence struggle.

- It promoted Indian crafts, languages, arts, and local artisans.

### Indian Organ Donation Day -August 6

- The 15th Indian Organ Donation Day was observed on August 3, 2025, marking the anniversary of India's first successful deceased donor heart transplant on the same day in 1994.
- Theme 2025 - "**Angdaan - Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyan**", highlighting the importance of organ donation in saving lives.

### World Tribal Day

- It is observed on August 9 every year to support and protect the rights of the world's indigenous people.
- Also referred to as World Indigenous Day or International Day of World's Indigenous People.
- World Tribal Day 2025 Theme: 'Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence - Defending Rights, Shaping the Future'

### International Traffic Signal Day

- **Observed on:** August 5
- **Organized by:** Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) in Chennai.
- **Aim:** To highlight the importance of traffic signals in ensuring safe and efficient road use.
- This day is held every year to mark the anniversary of the world's first traffic signal on August 5th, 1914.

### World Lion Day

- World Lion Day is observed on August 10 to raise awareness about lion conservation and their protection.

- India's ongoing "Project Lion @2047" aims to secure and manage the growing lion population in the Saurashtra region long term.
- Project Lion:** Launched in 2020 & aim to secure Asiatic lions through habitat improvement and advanced monitoring with radio-collars and cameras.
- Later, in the early hours of August 9, all major Congress leaders were arrested and imprisoned.
- Until May 6, 1944, Mahatma Gandhi was kept under house arrest at Aga Khan Palace. Nehru, Patel, Azad, and others were taken to Ahmedabad Fort Prison and held there until March 28, 1945. From 1921 to 1945, this was the 9th time Nehru was imprisoned, having spent a total of 9 years in jail.

### World Biofuel Day

- World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 every year in honor of Sir Rudolf Diesel.
- In 1893, he operated the first engine using peanut oil, laying the foundation for modern biofuels.
- Theme for 2025 - Biofuels:** A Sustainable Pathway to Net Zero'.
- While imprisoned in Ahmedabad for participating in the Quit India Movement, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote the book 'The Discovery of India'.

### August 9 – 'Quit India Movement' (August Kranti Diwas) Day

- 83rd anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' led by Mahatma Gandhi.

#### Historical Background

- In 1942, against British rule, the Quit India Movement was launched by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, with the unparalleled slogan "Do or Die."
- This gave a new impetus to the country's freedom struggle.
- In the history of India's freedom struggle, the Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi against British rule is a major milestone.
- On August 8, 1942, the resolution for this movement was passed at the Mumbai Congress session. Responding to Gandhi's call, the struggle began on August 9.
- Under Congress leadership, countless Indians took to the streets and wrote an unforgettable chapter in history.

### World Elephant Day

- World Elephant Day is being celebrated in Coimbatore on 12 August, focusing on mitigation of human-elephant conflict.
- Organised by the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.**
- India has **33 elephant reserves and 150 elephant corridors.**
- India is home to nearly 60% of the world's wild elephant population.

### August 12 - National Library Day

- August 12 is observed as National Library Day every year to honor the birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of Indian library science and the first librarian of the University of Madras.

## DEFENCE

### Army Institute of Law (AIL)

- The **Army Institute of Law** was established in **1999** by the Indian Army in Patiala under the Army Welfare Education Society.
- It was **relocated to Mohali in July 2003**.
- The institute is affiliated with **Punjabi University, Patiala** and is recognized by the **Bar Council of India**.

### Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas to be held in Alaska this month (August).
- Part of the annual India-U.S. joint military exercise series.
- The exercise is a key part of the India-U.S. defense partnership, which is described as an important pillar of their bilateral ties.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### "Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu"

- The book - 'Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu'
- Authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan.
- The book is a comprehensive historical study of the evolution of temples in Tamil Nadu, tracing the journey from rock-cut sanctuaries to structural temples.
- **Emphasizes influence of:**
  - Mauryas, Chalukyas, Pallavas, Pandyas, and Cholas
  - Indian architectural legacy in Indonesia, Cambodia (Angkor Wat), Borobudur, Vietnam

### Manodhidam Novel

- 'Manodhidam' novel is about the great famine that occurred in Gujarat one hundred and twenty-five years ago.
- It was written by Gujarati writer and Jnanpith Award winner Pannalal Patel.
- This novel published in 1947 has been translated into Tamil by N. Subramanian.
- **An Ancient Bond: The Elephant Whisperers of Mudumalai** by Tarsh Thekaekara.
- **The Lost Elephant and the Soul Tree** by Akila Kannadasan.

## SPORTS & GAMES

### International Wiesław Maniak Memorial Meet

- Annu Rani won gold at the 8th International Wiesław Maniak Memorial meet in Szczecin, Poland.
- National Record: Her personal best and national record is 63.82m, set in 2022.

### Indian Sailing Federation

- The Indian Sailing Federation was started to develop the sport of sailing.
- Since the country has numerous waterfalls, rivers, lakes, and dams, this federation works to create more sailing centres and generate interest in this sport among a large section of our people so that they can participate in international competitions and win medals.

### Asian Surfing Championship

- At the Asian Surfing Championship held in Mamallapuram, India's Ramesh Budihal won a bronze medal.
- He became the first Indian to win a medal in the history of the tournament.

### Asian U-19 Boxing

- Women's Gold Medalists:
  - Nisha - 54kg.
  - Muskan - 57kg.
- Women's Silver Medalists:
  - Aarti Kumari - 75kg.
  - Krithika Vasani - 80kg.

- Prachi Tokas - 80+kg.
- Vini - 60kg.
- Nisha - 65kg.

#### Women's Bronze Medalists:

- Yashika - 51kg.
- Akanksha Balaswal - 70kg.

#### Men's Gold Medalist:

- Rahul Kundu - 75kg.

#### Men's Silver Medalists:

- Hemant Sangwan - 80kg.
- Mausam Suhag - 65kg.

#### Men's Bronze Medalists:

- Shivam - 55kg.
- Gaurav - 85kg.

### Asian U22 Boxing Championship (Thailand)

#### Gold Medal

- Rithika (India) - women's 80 + kg

#### Silver Medals

- Yathri Patel - women's 57 kg
- Priya - women's 60 kg

#### Bronze Medals

- Neeraj - men's 75 kg
- Ishan Kadaria - men's 90+ kg

#### Overall Performance

- India finished 4th with a total of 13 medals.

### World Masters Swimming Championship

- In the World Masters Swimming Championship held in Singapore, Chennai athlete Aravind Nainar won the silver medal in the 200m backstroke category with a time of 2 minutes 15.22 seconds.

## Athletics

- India's Ankita Dhyani won the gold medal in the women's 2,000-meter steeplechase at the international athletics championships held in Israel. She also created a new national record.

## World Table Tennis

- India's G. Sathiyan won the champion's trophy

at the World Table Tennis Feeder Series held in Laos.

## Chennai Grand Masters Chess Tournament

- Germany's Vincent Ka won the Masters category of the Chennai Grand Masters Chess Tournament.



## INTERNATIONAL

### "July Declaration"

- The July Declaration is a move by Bangladesh's interim government to give constitutional recognition to the 2024 student-led uprising that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- The declaration, set to be unveiled on August 5, 2025.
- The uprising was led by the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), and the declaration aims to promote anti-fascism, democratic resurgence, and state reform.

### Eighty years on from Hiroshima

- August 2025 marks 80 years since the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The Nihon Hidankyo, an organization formed by the survivors, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024, reflecting their long-standing efforts towards disarmament.
- India's Nuclear Doctrine: India follows a 'No First Use' nuclear doctrine.
- Quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "The atomic bomb has deadened the finest feeling that has sustained mankind for ages."

### Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- 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.
- **Members:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in 2025 will be held in Tianjin, China.

### SheLeads Programme

- Recently, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development inaugurated the second edition of UN Women's flagship capacity-building programme - SheLeads II: Workshop for Women Leaders, in New Delhi.

### About SheLeads Programme

- It is a flagship initiative of the UN Women India Country Office.
- **Aim:** It is aimed to advance gender equality in public and political leadership, aiming to support women leaders in contesting the upcoming/next Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections

### About UN Women

- It is the United Nations (UN) entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- It was created in July 2010 by the UN General Assembly.

## World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Brazil has filed a formal dispute with the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the United States' decision to impose a 50% tariff on its imports.

### About World Trade Organization (WTO)

- It is the sole global body governing international trade rules, acting as a forum for negotiations, dispute resolution, and ensuring fair trade practices among member nations.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Established In:** 1 January 1995 - replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which had operated since 1948.
- Origin traces back to post-World War II efforts to create a fair, rules-based global trade system.
- GATT (1947) provided initial tariff-reduction frameworks.
- The Uruguay Round (1986-94) expanded trade rules to services and intellectual property, leading to the WTO's creation.

### Global Plastic Treaty

- The Global Plastic Treaty is an international initiative launched under the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2022 to address the escalating issue of plastic pollution.
- It aims to establish legally binding measures for managing the entire lifecycle of plastics,

including their production, usage, recycling, and disposal.

▪ The treaty focuses on:

- Reducing plastic production to curb the supply of new plastics.
- Encouraging recycling and reuse to minimise waste.
- Managing hazardous chemicals associated with plastics.
- Eliminating harmful practices such as open dumping and burning of plastic waste.

## International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA is an intergovernmental organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of atomic energy and prevent its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
- It was established in 1957 within the UN as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization and is governed by its own founding agreement - the IAEA Statute.
- It reports to both UNGA and UNSC and is headquartered at the UN Office in Vienna, Austria.
- In 2005, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work toward a safe and peaceful world.
- IAEA has 178 member countries, with India being one of its founding members.