

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JANUARY 2026 - PART 1



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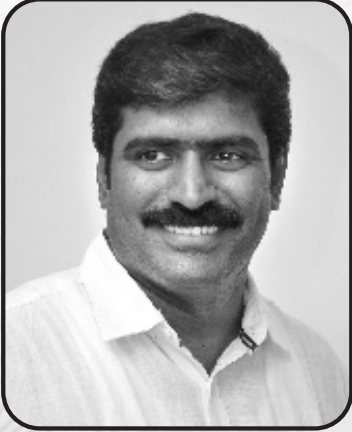
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

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

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SCIENCE

GENERAL SCIENCE

International Year of Quantum Science 2025

- **Context:** 2025 has been declared the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology by UNESCO, marking 100 years since the formal development of quantum mechanics in 1925.
- Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics that explains the **behaviour of matter and energy at atomic and subatomic scales.**

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- **Aim:** To seed, nurture and scale up **scientific and industrial R&D** and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in **Quantum Technology (QT)**.
- It's objectives is to developing intermediate-scale **quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years** in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.

Dengue

- **Background:** Chennai, January 3, 2025 - Tamil Nadu has topped the list as the state with the **highest number of dengue fever cases in the country.** According to statistics released by the Union Health Ministry, 20,866 people have been affected by dengue in Tamil Nadu. The increase in **Aedes aegypti mosquitoes** has been cited as the reason for this.

About Dengue

- Dengue is a viral disease that is spread by the bite of the **Aedes aegypti mosquito.**

- It has four different serotypes – DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4.
- In India, **National Dengue Day** is observed on May 16.

LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PathGennie

- The **Ministry of Science and Technology** has developed a new open-source software called **PathGennie.**
- It aims to accelerate drug discovery through **advanced molecular simulations.**

Asteroid Benu

- NASA's **OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** collected samples from asteroid **Benu in 2020** and returned them to Earth in **September 2023.**
- The research teams reported that Benu contains **key molecules essential for life: Sugars:** ribose (RNA sugar) and glucose (metabolism), **Amino acids,** All five nucleobases found in DNA and RNA.

'Param Rudra' Supercomputer

- The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology inaugurated the high-performance 'Param Rudra' supercomputing facility at IIT Madras.
- This system has been jointly steered by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the Department of Science and Technology under the National Supercomputing Mission and has been designed and implemented by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).**
- These initiatives are strengthening India's research and innovation ecosystem.

- It will significantly enhance computational capabilities in fields such as computational fluid dynamics, aerospace engineering, materials science, molecular dynamics, nuclear science, and drug discovery.
- EOS-N1 is an **earth imaging satellite** said to be built for strategic purposes.
- The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the **105th launch from Sriharikota**.
- The EOS-N1 satellite will provide data for services including **agriculture, urban planning, environmental monitoring, and military surveillance**.

Indigenous Chip for Space

- **ISRO** and **IIT Madras** have successfully developed 'IRIS' (Indigenous RISC-V Microprocessor for Space Applications), a semiconductor chip designed for space missions.
- This is a semiconductor chip built on the open-source **RISC-V architecture**. Developed on the patent-free RISC-V architecture, it is derived from the **SHAKTI microprocessor project**.
- It has been developed with the aim of reducing dependence on foreign technology in critical sectors.

First Genetically Modified Rice

- **India** has become the **first country to introduce genetically modified** rice varieties.
- The rice varieties **DRR Rice 100** and **Pusa DST Rice 1** promise high yield and better climate adaptability.
- These varieties are poised to **increase productivity, conserve water and enhance resilience to climate change**, marking a significant leap for India in agricultural modernization.

SPACE

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the **PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12**.

Anvisha Satellite

- Background: The advanced satellite called 'Anvisha', also known as **EOS-N1**, developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for **military applications**.
- It is scheduled to be launched from the first launch pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using the PSLV-C62 rocket**.
- This satellite will be placed in a **sun-synchronous orbit** at an altitude of **505 kilometers** above the Earth. It will play a crucial role in Earth observation and intelligence gathering for military security, thereby strengthening the country's defense.
- At the same time, it will also be useful in fields such as agriculture, urban planning, and environmental monitoring.

Aditya-L1 solar mission

- Context: **ISRO** said the **Aditya-L1 solar mission** has provided new insights into how **powerful solar storms affect Earth's magnetic field**.

- ISRO explained that **space weather** is caused by transient solar activities such as **solar plasma eruptions**.
- Such events can affect **satellites, communication and navigation systems, and power grid infrastructure** on Earth.
- **Objectives:** To understand Coronal Heating and Solar Wind Acceleration; flares and near-earth space weather; Solar wind distribution and temperature anisotropy etc.
- **Lifespan:** 5 years
- It placed in a **halo orbit** around the **Lagrange point 1 (L1)** of the Sun-Earth system, which is about **1.5 million km from the Earth**.

About Aditya-L1 Mission

- It is **India's first dedicated solar mission**.
- It was launched **in 2023 by PSLV-C57**



GEOGRAPHY

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

- The Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary in **Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh** has been declared an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones are declared around protected areas by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

Environmentally sensitive zones

- In India, conservation planning follows an ecosystem-based approach to **protect representative habitats**.
- Eco-sensitive zones **extend up to 10 km from protected areas, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries**.
- While in India, until 2014, there were only 23 Eco-Sensitive Zones covering 25 protected areas, currently, 353 Eco-Sensitive Zone notifications have been issued covering 496 protected areas.
- Tamil Nadu has **69 Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**.

Secondary Pollutants

- Context: A recent analysis by the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)** shows that **secondary pollutants contribute nearly one-third of Delhi's annual PM2.5 load**.
- Secondary pollutants are **not emitted directly**.
- They form in the atmosphere when **primary pollutants (gases)** react under the influence of **sunlight, humidity, temperature, and stagnant air**.
- Major Secondary Pollutants are Ammonium

sulphate, Ammonium nitrate, Sulphuric acid, Nitric acid.

India's Clean Energy Achievements

- **Global Ranking:** India ranks **4th globally** in total installed renewable capacity at **253.96 GW**, with **23% year-on-year growth**.
- **Solar Capacity Growth:** Increased by **34.98 GW to 132.85 GW (41% YoY growth)**.
- **Wind Capacity Growth:** Increased by **5.82 GW to 53.99 GW (12.5% YoY growth)**.
- **Solar Capacity Growth:** Increased by **34.98 GW to 132.85 GW (41% YoY growth)**.
- **Wind Capacity Growth:** Increased by **5.82 GW to 53.99 GW (12.5% YoY growth)**.
- **China Dependence Reducing:** Historically reliant on Chinese solar imports, India is now expanding domestic capacity.

Sandalwood-colored leopard

- **Background:** A rare leopard, the "**sandalwood-colored leopard**," was discovered for the second time in India in the **Vijayanagara district of Karnataka**, drawing national and global attention to the state's genetically diverse wildlife.
- The "**sandalwood leopard**" was first discovered in **November 2021 in Ranakpur, Rajasthan**.

Olive Ridley Sea Turtles

- The nesting season for Olive Ridley sea turtles has begun. These turtles lay their eggs on the Tamil Nadu coast from Chennai to Kanyakumari from December to April

Olive Ridley

- The Olive Ridley sea turtle is listed as a '**vulnerable**' species on the **IUCN Red List**, and is a protected species included in **Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and in CITES Appendix-I**.

INDIAN POLITY

First phase of Census 2027

- The first phase of Census 2027, the houselisting operations (HLO) phase, will be conducted from **April 1 to September 30** across all States and Union Territories.
- This phase will be conducted in each **State over a 30-day period**, with the specific dates to be notified by the States.
- The **second phase** of the Census is the population enumeration phase in **February 2027**.
- Census 2027 will be the **16th census of India and 8th since Independence** covering the entire population and providing granular village town and ward level data on housing amenities demography education economic activity migration and more.
- India's 2027 Census brings digital tools, self-enumeration, GPS tracking, and caste data collection for the first time since 1931.

Kerala's new language Bill

- Context: The **Karnataka government has opposed the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025**, which makes **Malayalam a compulsory first language** in all schools across Kerala.
- A **similar language Bill passed in 2017** was **rejected by the President**, strengthening Karnataka's objection.
- As per **Article 350 and Article 350A**, it is the duty of the State government to protect rights of linguistic minorities.
- **Article 350** - Languages to be used in representations for redress of grievances.
- **Article 350A** - Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage

Centre Moves to Restore Elected Government in Manipur

- Context: The Centre is holding talks to **restore a popular government in Manipur**, which will complete **one year under President's Rule on February 13**.
- **President's Rule cannot be extended beyond one year** without a **Constitution amendment Bill** in Parliament.
- **Article 355**: Obligation of the Union to safeguard states from external aggression and internal disturbances.
- **Article 356**: It allows the President to take over the functions of the state government when the constitutional machinery fails.
- **Article 365**: Consequences of failing to comply with or implement directions issued by the Union.
- The **44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978** introduced a provision allowing the extension of the President's Rule beyond one year, six months at a time, only under **two specific conditions**:

- A proclamation of National Emergency is in effect throughout India or in the entire state or any part of it.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) certifies that general elections for the Legislative Assembly of the state cannot be conducted due to certain difficulties.
- **The President of India can revoke the President's Rule** at any time with a proclamation, and **this does not require parliamentary approval**.

Supreme Court on Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

- Context: The Supreme Court delivered a **split verdict on the validity** of Section 17A of the

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, which requires **prior sanction** before prosecuting public servants for decisions taken in official capacity.

- **Justice Viswanathan:** Section 17A is constitutionally valid subject to the condition that the sanction must be decided by the Lok Pal or the Lok Ayukta of the State.

- **Justice BV Nagarathna:** Section 17A of the Act is in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution inasmuch as it seeks to protect only a class of public servants.

- Owing to the **split verdict**, the matter will be referred to the Chief Justice of India for constitution of a **three-judge Bench**.

About the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

- The **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** came into force on **9th September, 1988**.
- It was aimed at making anti-corruption laws more effective by widening their coverage and

by strengthening the provisions to make the overall statute more effective.

- **Section 17A** mandates that there should be a prior sanction from the Government to launch an investigation against a public servant under the Act.

- **Definition of Corruption:** Acceptance or solicitation of gratification (other than legal remuneration) by a public servant for performing or not performing an official act.

- **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018:** To ensure that the public servants can discharge their public duty without fear of harassment and prosecution.

Other legal measures to control corruption

- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.

- Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

- United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

Since 2011

INDIAN ECONOMY

India's Rice Production Strains Water Resources

- India overtook China as the **world's largest rice producer**, exporting over 20 million metric tonnes.
- Rice farming in **Punjab and Haryana** is depleting groundwater.
- Government subsidies, including high rice prices and power support, encourage water-intensive cultivation.
- Producing **1 kg of rice uses 3,000–4,000 liters** of water, 20–60% above the global average.

India's FY26 GDP Growth

- The Union government has projected real **GDP growth at 7.4% for FY 2025–26**, higher than **6.5% in FY25**.
- Nominal GDP growth** for FY26 is estimated at 8%, according to the First Advance Estimates (FAE).
- The FAE for any year is important as it forms the basis for various calculations and ratios **used in preparing the Union Budget**.
- While the country's economic growth was 6.5 percent in the 2024–25 financial year, the first national income estimate **released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** indicates that the growth rate could increase to 7.4 percent in the 2025–26 financial year due to the performance of the manufacturing and services sectors.
- The real **Gross Value Added (GVA)** is projected to increase to **7.3 percent** in the 2025–26 financial year.
- The Reserve Bank of India had projected the country's economic **growth to be 7.3 percent in the 2025–26 financial year**.

China leads among India's major export destinations.

- Background:** According to data from the

Union Ministry of Commerce, **China is leading among India's major export destinations.**

- In the 2022–23 financial year (April–November), Indian exports to China amounted to \$10.2 billion.
- This decreased to \$9.2 billion in the 2024–25 financial year.
- However, in the April–November period of the current year, exports to **China increased by 33% to \$12.22 billion**.
- This is the **first time in the last four years that Indian exports to China** have increased to this extent.

Retail Inflation

- Context:** India's retail inflation rose to a **three-month high of 1.33% in December 2025**.
- Despite the rise, inflation remained **below the RBI's lower comfort level of 2%**.
- The RBI's inflation target is **4%, with a ±2% tolerance band**.

About Retail Inflation

- Retail inflation, also known as **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation, tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.
- Significance:** Widely used macroeconomic indicator of inflation, tool for inflation targeting by governments and central banks, deflators in national accounts, indexing dearness allowance to employees.
- Published by:** Central Statistical Office (CSO) on 12th of every month.
- Components:** Includes 4 CPI numbers at the national level, namely:
 - CPI for Industrial Workers (IW),
 - CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL),
 - CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
 - CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).
- Base Year for CPI: 2012**

TAMIL NADU

INITIATIVES / SCHEMES

Pharmacies to Display QR Code for Reporting Adverse Drug Events

- **Context:** Pharmacy outlets across Tamil Nadu have begun displaying a QR code to help the public report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs).
- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has directed all retail and wholesale pharmacies nationwide to display the QR code at a prominent location.
- The initiative aims to strengthen patient safety and pharmacovigilance.
- **Tamil Nadu is the first State** to implement this initiative.

Expansion of Free Vaccination Programme in Tamil Nadu

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu government, through the **Public Health Department (DPH)**, is taking steps to expand free vaccination services to all private hospitals with adequate infrastructure.
- Under the **UIP**, launched in 1985, 11 vaccines were administered to children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **12 vaccine preventable diseases:**
 - **Nationally against 9 diseases:** Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Haemophilus Influenzae type B.
 - **Sub-nationally against 3 diseases:** Rotavirus diarrhoea, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis.

- Around **9.40 lakh children** are vaccinated annually under this programme.
- Annually, around **12.0 pregnant women** and **11.0 lakhs infants** are being targeted under Immunization programme.
- Tamil Nadu has reported **more than 95 % coverage over the years.**

About Immunisation in India

- **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** Initially launched as the Expanded Programme on Immunization in 1978, it was rebranded as the UIP in 1985 when coverage expanded from urban to rural areas.
 - In 1992, the UIP was incorporated into the **Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme** and later, in 1997, into the **National Reproductive and Child Health Programme.**
 - Since 2005, under the **National Rural Health Mission**, the UIP has focused on ensuring vaccine access for every child, even in remote areas.
- **Mission Indradhanush (MI):** MI was launched in December 2014 with a goal of achieving **90% full immunisation coverage.**
- **U-WIN Portal:** It is a digital platform designed to streamline vaccine delivery and record-keeping, enabling easy access and management of immunisation records.

Thayumanavar Scheme

- **Background:** Under the Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme, essential commodities under the **Public Distribution System** will be delivered to the homes of **elderly people above 65 years of age and persons with disabilities** through 990 fair price shops operating in the 15 zones of Chennai.

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the **Thayumanavar Scheme** on **August 12, 2025**.
- This scheme provides doorstep delivery of ration commodities to elderly people above **70 years of age and persons with disabilities**.
- It covers over 21.7 lakh beneficiaries across the state, Distribution will be **done through vehicles**
- Ration commodities will be distributed on **the second Saturday and Sunday of every month**.

She Leads Tamil Nadu

- **Background:** Ahead of the **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections**, UN Women India is organizing a two-day training workshop called **'She Leads Tamil Nadu'** with the aim of increasing women's political participation. This is the first workshop of its kind to be held in Tamil Nadu.

She Leads

- She Leads is an initiative of UN Women.
- It aims to promote gender equality in public and political leadership and to support women leaders contesting in the upcoming parliamentary and state assembly elections.

UN Women

- It was created by **the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010**.
- UN Women works to create changes in laws, social norms, and services to advance **women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of girls**.

High Court Enlists Water Conservation Expert to Restore Tamirabharani River

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has appointed **eminent water conservationist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Rajendra Singh** as Commissioner to undertake a detailed

study of the river and suggest appropriate remedial measures.

- **Rajendra Singh** is called as the **Waterman of India**, has restored streams and rivers in **Rajasthan that had gone dry**.

Ulagam Ungal Kayil (The World in Your Hands Scheme)

- A new scheme called **"The World in Your Hands"** planned to provide a total of 20 lakh laptops to college students under the **"World in Your Hands"** scheme. In its first phase, 10 lakh laptops are being distributed to students was launched by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, on **January 5, 2026**.

Key features of the scheme:

- The main objective is to provide **free laptops to college students to enhance their skills and digital literacy**.
- In the first phase, laptops are being provided to approximately 10 lakh students studying in higher education institutions such as government **arts and science colleges, engineering colleges, medical colleges, polytechnics, and ITIs**.
- The laptops for this scheme are procured and supplied by the **Tamil Nadu Electronics Corporation (ELCOT)**.
- Students can utilize an AI-powered research and learning platform with a six-month Perplexity Pro subscription, which guides them from a hardware-only focus to integrated digital skill development.

Tamil Nadu Guaranteed Pension Scheme

- **January 3, 2025:** Chief Minister announced the **Tamil Nadu Guaranteed Pension Scheme** for Tamil Nadu government employees and teachers who joined service after **1.4.2004**.

Key Features of the Guaranteed Pension Scheme

Scheme

▪ Guaranteed Pension

- Tamil Nadu government employees will be guaranteed and provided with a pension equivalent to **50% of their last drawn monthly salary**.
- Employees must **contribute 10% towards this 50% guaranteed pension**. The Tamil Nadu government will bear the remaining full amount required for the pension fund.

▪ Dearness Allowance (DA) Increase

- Pensioners receiving the 50% guaranteed pension will receive an annual dearness allowance increase every six months, equivalent to the increase given to serving government employees.

▪ Family Pension

- If a pensioner passes away, **60% of the pension** they were receiving will be provided as a family pension to the family member they had previously nominated.

▪ Gratuity

- Government employees will be provided with a gratuity of up to a maximum of **Rs. 25 lakhs upon** retirement or in case of death during service, depending on their length of service.

▪ Minimum Pension

- After the implementation of the new guaranteed pension scheme, a minimum pension will be provided to all officers **who retire without completing the required qualifying service period for pension eligibility**.

▪ Special Compassionate Pension

- A special compassionate pension will be provided to those **who joined service**

under the contributory pension scheme and retired without a pension during the interim period before the implementation of this new scheme.

Regional office of the National Turmeric Board (NTB)

- Union Agriculture Minister announced plans to set up a **regional office of the National Turmeric Board (NTB)** in Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- An **accredited turmeric testing laboratory** will also be established in Erode.

National Turmeric Board (NTB)

- By the initiative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and its headquarters at Nizamabad, Telangana.
- Established to promote the cultivation, production, processing, and marketing of turmeric in India and enhancing the income of turmeric farmers.

Tamil Nadu Signs MoU with UN Women

- **Chief Minister** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women to enhance **women's welfare, gender equality, and inclusive development** in Tamil Nadu.

Aims to:

- Strengthen **gender-responsive governance and planning**.
- Achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through a gender-equality perspective.
- Improve **gender-responsive planning and budgeting**.
- Create **economic opportunities for women**.
- **UNICEF Office of Innovation (Sweden)** selected Tamil Nadu as the **first sub-national**

government globally for a six-month cooperation agreement.

- The initiative aims to promote **inclusive social development**, align with Tamil Nadu's **long-term vision**, and **improve public service delivery systems**.

UN Women

- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010.
- UN Women works to create changes in laws, social norms, and services to advance women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of girls.

Scheme to provide e-scooters to 'Gig' workers

- **Background:** A scheme to provide e-scooters at subsidized rates to workers registered with the Gig Workers Welfare Board in Tamil Nadu has been launched.
- The Gig Workers Welfare Board was established in **2023**;
- A group insurance scheme of up to **₹5 lakh has been** implemented for the workers.
- Under the new scheme, ₹4 crore has been allocated to provide new e-scooters to **2,000 workers with a subsidy of ₹20,000 each**.
- Currently, e-scooter subsidies were provided to 100 workers in the first phase.

Organ Donation - Tamil Nadu

- **Background:** In 2025, organ donation from 266 brain-dead individuals in Tamil Nadu has given a new lease on life to 1,476 people; the brain death organ transplant program created for this purpose is currently being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Organ Transplant Authority.

Brain Death Organ Transplant Program 2008

- The Tamil Nadu Organ Transplant Authority (TRANSTAN) manages the brain death organ transplant program.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state to make brain death certification mandatory in **2008**.
- In **September 2023**, the Government of Tamil Nadu honoured those who **donated organs after brain death**.
- This **first-of-its-kind government** order has had a significant impact on the program.

Tamil Nadu Organ Transplant Authority

- The Tamil Nadu Transplant Authority (TRANSTAN) was launched on **December 12, 2014**.
- TRANSTAN (2014) is the pioneering state authority in Tamil Nadu that manages the organ donation program in a **digital, transparent, and equitable** manner.

Human Organ Transplantation Act

- Following the enactment of the **Human Organ Transplantation Act in 1994**, Tamil Nadu was one of the first states to begin **cadaveric organ transplantation in 1995**.
- For the **sixth consecutive year**, Tamil Nadu remains the **best-performing state** in organ transplantation activities.
- **World Organ Donation Day** is celebrated every year on **August 13**.
- The practice of observing **September 23rd as Organ Donation Day** was **initiated in Tamil Nadu**.
- The Tamil Nadu government launched the **Transplant Organ Allocation app**.

World Bank Praises MTC

- The World Bank has lauded Chennai's Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) for a major turnaround in operations and service delivery.
- Chennai City Partnership (CCP) aims to bring the bus network to financial sustainability, backed by better performance and improvements in efficiency, supported by predictable viability gap funding from the State government.
- MTC has taken big strides on various fronts, including the integration of the ticketing systems of various public transports through the "Chennai One" app.

Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom scheme

- **Context:** The State Planning Commission has recommended to the Tamil Nadu government to promote the **decentralised production of green manure seeds to improve the implementation of long term effectiveness of Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom scheme**

SPC recommended

- Integrating green manuring with regular soil testing and soil health cards.
- Establishment of village level soil testing units to help farmers track improvements in soil organic carbon nutrient availability and water holding capacity is must.

Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom scheme

- The Tamil Nadu government launched the "Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom" on **12th June 2024**.
- It is aimed at improving soil quality and moving towards the sustainable and chemical

free agriculture practices for the wellbeing of the society.

- It also announced steps to reduce chemical fertilizers in paddy crops.
- **Distribution of green manure seeds to farmers**, which helps replenish nutrients in the soil.

Deep Tech Policy

- The State unveiled **India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-2026 (TNDTSP)** at the **4th edition of UmagineTN**.
- Aim: To position Tamil Nadu as **India's premier deep tech hub**, foster advanced innovation, drive industrial growth, empower MSMEs, and support the State's journey towards a **\$1 trillion economy**.
- The iTNT Hub will serve as the nodal implementing agency for the TNDTSP. It will house a dedicated team to coordinate all initiatives, manage funds, and act as a single point of contact for stakeholders.

Start-up & Investment Targets

- Support **100 deep tech start-ups**
- Mobilise **₹100 crore** in public and private investments (VCs and co-investments)

Innovation & IP Goals

- Enable **10 technology transfer/licensing deals** from academic and R&D institutions
- Achieve **25% annual growth in patent filings** by deep tech start-ups

Skill Development

- Train **10,000+ students and professionals** in deep tech domains (AI, ML, robotics, biotech, etc.)
- Award **10 research fellowships**

Unga Kanava Sollunga (Tell Us Your Dream) Scheme

- **Background:** The Chief Minister is launching this new scheme on, **January 9th, in Padiyanallur, Ponneri, Thiruvallur district.**

Highlights of the scheme:

- This scheme has been launched to verify the beneficiary details of social welfare schemes implemented **since 2021** and to gather people's feedback on the schemes' performance and their future aspirations.
- 50,000 volunteers will visit 1.91 crore families in rural and urban areas to collect information.
- The government plans to issue a dream card with a **unique identification number to each family.**
- It aims to understand the dreams of the people for the development of **Tamil Nadu by 2030.**
- It is being implemented through **the Chief Minister's Mudhalavarin Mugavari** Department.
- A separate website will be created for the dreams of young people, and the opinions of Tamils living abroad will also be collected.
- Families will share feedback on benefits received under State schemes.
- Each family will list **three priority aspirations.**
- Aspirations will be **digitised**, assigned a **unique code**, and families will receive a **tracking card.**

Cervical Cancer Vaccine

- **Background:** The Public Health Department is taking steps to launch a program to provide cervical cancer vaccines to adolescent girls in four districts by the end of this month.
- The Chief Minister will soon inaugurate the vaccination program for **girls aged 9 to 14 years.**

- Cervical cancer is caused by the **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection.**
- The overall incidence rate of cervical cancer in Tamil Nadu is 14 per lakh population.
- For the **first time in India**, the cervical cancer vaccine will be administered free of charge to **adolescent girls in Tamil Nadu.**
- **Two doses of the vaccine** will be given to girls studying in government and government-aided schools from Monday to Friday.
- In the first phase, it was found that the prevalence of cervical cancer is high in **Tiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, and Dharmapuri districts.** Therefore, the program is being launched in these districts.

Namma Arasu

- **Context:** The state government in partnership with Meta launched unified **WhatsApp chatbot Namma Arasu at UImagine TN 2026** a technology and innovation summit bringing **51 essential citizen services** on to a single digit platform.
- Developed under the leadership of **Tamil Nadu e-Governance agency**, the chatbot is part of the state ongoing efforts to strengthen digital public service delivery.
- The chatbot available in both **Tamil and English**, allowing the citizens to access a range of services across multiple government departments.
- These services include key departments such as Local Administration, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, and the Electricity Department.
- The initiative aims to make public service **delivery faster, simpler more inclusive and easily accessible.**

Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu government paid an annual premium of Rs.1,237.80 crore for the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- Through Ungaludan Stalin and Nalam Kaakkum Stalin camps, 2,77,735 new beneficiaries were enrolled under CMCHIS.

About Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)

- CMCHIS was launched in 23rd July 2009 by former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- The Tamil Nadu government hiked the health insurance cover under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) from Rs 2lakh to Rs 5 lakh. This came into effect on December 1, 2018, and as a cashless scheme, it benefits 1.58 crore families.
- Annual income limit, Rs. 72,000, has increased to Rs. 1,20,000 and the number of treatment procedures has increased from 1090 to 2053.
- This scheme operates in 2,157 hospitals. Through this insurance scheme, the public is benefiting from treatments worth up to Rs. 22 lakh for certain procedures.
- This follows the decision of the State Government to link the scheme with Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana under the Ayushman Bharat programme.

OVERSEAS TAMILS CONFERENCE

- Overseas Tamils from 70 countries and several states participated in the Overseas Tamils Conference held in Chennai.

Special Schemes for Overseas Tamils

- The Overseas Tamils Welfare Board was established for the welfare of Tamils living abroad.

- A toll-free helpline has been launched for overseas Tamils.
- The 'My Village' scheme is being implemented to enable expatriate Tamils to develop their native villages.
- 10 teachers have been appointed to teach Tamil in countries including Tanzania, Indonesia, and Uganda.
- Tamil Mamani and Kaniyan Poongundranar awards are presented to those who have excelled in Tamil service in various countries.

Tamil Nadu Close to Malaria elimination

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu is nearing malaria elimination, with 33 out of 38 districts reporting zero indigenous cases over the past three years.
- Chennai remains among the five districts (Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Chengalpattu, Salem and Chennai) yet to achieve zero transmission, contributing 37%-45% of the State's malaria cases, though cases declined from 173 (2023) to 121 (2025).
- Thirty-three districts have achieved 'Category 0' status, indicating malaria-free conditions.
- A national conference on malaria elimination is scheduled for January 19-21, reinforcing the State's commitment to elimination.
- There have been no malaria outbreaks in the last three years, and the Annual Parasite Incidence (API) has been reduced to below 1%, according to the Directorate of Public Health (DPH).
- WHO and NCVBDC have set a 2030 target for malaria elimination in India; Tamil Nadu is aligning its strategies with this goal.

- **Malaria** is caused by **Plasmodium vivax** and **Plasmodium falciparum**, transmitted by **Anopheles mosquitoes**.
- **Vaccine:** The **RTS,S** (world's first malaria vaccine) and **R21** malaria vaccines act against **P. falciparum**, the deadliest malaria parasite globally and the most prevalent in Africa.
- The project involves an **investment of Rs.10,000 crore** and will be set up in collaboration with **IIT Madras**.
- The AI Centre will **create around 1,000 high-skilled technology jobs**.
- This will be the **first dedicated AI centre for a State in India**.

Indian government Initiatives to Control Malaria

- **Malaria cases** in India have reduced from **11.7 lakh in 2015** to approximately **2.27 lakh in 2024**, with a **78% reduction** in deaths.
- India **aims for zero indigenous cases by 2027**, aligning with WHO's global strategy.
- In India, a National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) has been developed and launched in 2016 aligned with the **Global Technical Strategy (GTS)** for malaria elimination 2016-2030.
- **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India):** It was established by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** as a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.
- **National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP):** It is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. **Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India**. It works under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **AI technology** will be developed in **Tamil for the first time**.
- **All the data from government departments** will be included in it.
- A key objective is to ensure **Tamil Nadu's data remains within the State**, addressing data **sovereignty and security** concerns.

POLITY

Tamil Nadu State Information Commission

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu will soon have **seven State Information Commissioners** in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
- At present, the Commission consists of **one State Chief Information Commissioner and five State Information Commissioners**.

Background

- When the Commission was constituted (**statutory body**) in **2005 (under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005))**, it had **one State Chief Information Commissioner and two State Information Commissioners**.
- In **2008**, the State government increased the number of State Information Commissioners from **two to six**.
- As per **Section 15(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005**, a State Information Commission can have **one State Chief Information Commissioner and up to ten State Information Commissioners**.

Separate Artificial Intelligence Centre for Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu government signed an MoU with Sarvam AI** to establish a **dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre in Chennai**.

- The **State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners** are appointed by the **Governor**.
- **Appointments** are made on the **recommendation of a committee comprising**:
 - Chief Minister (Chairperson)
 - The Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly
 - A Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.

About the RTI Act of 2005

- The Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005 gives **Indian citizens the legal right to access information** held by government bodies and public authorities, **subject to certain exceptions and limitations**.
- It **aims to promote transparency and accountability** in the functioning of public authorities.
- It **replaced the former Freedom of Information Act of 2002**.
- It **seeks to implement the Right To Information**, contained in the fundamental right of Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19).

Circular Economy Policy and Warehousing Policy

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on 13.01.2026 released the **Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026**, and the **Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy, 2026**, at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- Both the **policies provide eligible units with incentives**.

Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026

- The policy, launched by the Chief Minister, focuses on sectors that generate the most waste, such as textiles, automobiles and electronics.
- As a foundation for circular manufacturing, SIPCOT will collaborate with national and international companies to develop low-carbon green industrial parks with an aim to reduce direct and indirect emissions.
- Tamil Nadu is the second largest producer of electronic and optical products in the country and generates about 31,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.
- Aims to **promote recycling facilities and circular economy technology enablers/platforms**.
- Provides a special incentive package, in addition to benefits under: **MSME Policy, 2021 and Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu Sponsorship Policy**.
- **Eligibility**: Companies fulfilling prescribed criteria after **July 1, 2024**.
- **Eligible units** will get an **employment incentive as the reimbursement of the employer's EPF contribution** for net new jobs created during the **policy period**.
- This incentive will be provided for one year, capped at **Rs.10,000** per employee (those domiciled in Tamil Nadu) per month, with a maximum limit of 50 employees per organisation.
- The policy also provides for **skilling incentives and payroll subsidy**.

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy, 2026

- It provides for incentives to **stakeholders** in

the ecosystem, including **market participants, operators, and developers.**

- These incentives will be applicable for a **period of five years** from the date of promulgation of the policy.
 - An **extension** will be considered based on the **effectiveness** of the policy and **emerging requirements.**
- Warehouse must be **located in Tamil Nadu.**
- The incentives for **greenfield warehouse development** will be **extended** to only those units that are **established or commence commercial operations during the policy period.**
- The incentives for brownfield expansion will be applicable to warehouse units that have undertaken **expansion during the policy period.**
- As for **green incentives**, all eligible new warehouses could avail themselves of a **subsidy of 25%** of the cost of the green initiatives, subject to a limit of **Rs.2 crore.**
- **Co-predators** such as leopards, wild dogs, and hyenas
- **Prey base** including gaur, sambar deer, spotted deer, and barking deer.
- Tamil Nadu, which is home to five tiger reserves – Kalakad Mundanthurai, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai.
- The State's **tiger population increased from 264 (2018) to 306 (2022).**
- The main methods employed are pugmark analysis, scat analysis (DNA testing), camera trapping, radio-collaring, remote sensing, and data management through the M-STriPES software.
- The final report of the 2026 census will be released in 2027.

ENVIRONMENT

First Phase of Nationwide Tiger Estimation Exercise

- Context: The **first phase of the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026** will begin in Tamil Nadu on January 5.
- AITE is the **world's largest wildlife monitoring exercise**, conducted once every four years.
- It is carried out by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). In the state, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department conducts the survey work.
- The survey assesses
 - Tiger populations
- The project site lies between Mukurthi National Park and Avalanche Reserve Forest, both ecologically fragile and protected habitats in the Nilgiris.

Forest Department Rejects Further Tests for Upper Bhavani Hydroelectric Project

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has refused permission to NTPC Tamilnadu Energy Company Limited (NTECL) to conduct further exploratory tests at the proposed **Upper Bhavani Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project** site.
- The Mukurthi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as a part of the Western Ghats.
- The park was created with an intent to protect the **Nilgiri Tahr** and previously known as the **Nilgiri Tahr National Park.**

- Nilgiri Tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- The park preserves endangered species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger and the Asian Elephant, apart from the Nilgiri Tahr.
- Currently, 24.47% of Tamil Nadu's land area is covered by forests.
- Reserve forests are declared with the aim of protecting wildlife habitats, water bodies, and ecological corridors.

Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) in Tamil Nadu

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu Forest Department informed the Madras High Court that the process to establish Vulture Safe Zones has begun.
- **Purpose of VSZs:** To create a safe environment for vultures by eliminating threats, especially toxic veterinary NSAIDs like diclofenac, a major cause of vulture mortality.
- **First VSZ location:** Around the Moyar River Valley in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
- VSZs to be set up as per the Vision Document for Vulture Conservation (VDVC) in Tamil Nadu 2025–30.
- **Monitoring mechanism:** A field-level monitoring committee chaired by the Field Director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) has been constituted.
- **Monitoring scale:** 100-km radius around Moyar vulture nesting sites to be monitored for two years with scientific data generation.
- The protected forest area has increased by approximately 135 square kilometers due to the new reserve forests.
- These reserve forests are spread across 10 districts: Dindigul, Madurai, Kallakurichi, Theni, Sivaganga, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Salem, and Tenkasi.
- A total area of 13,494.95 hectares has been declared as new reserve forests.
- **The Highways area in Theni district** is the largest reserve forest, covering an area of 2,836 hectares.

All-India Tiger Estimation 2026

- **Context:** The first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation 2026 (AITE-26) officially began on January 6, 2026, at the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary under the Erode Forest Division. It is conducted once every four years
- Recording pugmarks, animal droppings, and direct sightings
- Surveying along predefined forest paths

Although tigers remain the primary focus, the survey also documents

- Co-predators such as leopards
- Large mammals including gaur, elephants, and bears

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located between the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka.

100 New Reserve Forest Areas in Tamil Nadu

- **Background:** 100 new reserve forest areas have been declared across Tamil Nadu from 2021 to 2025.
- The government's goal is to increase the forest cover to 33% of Tamil Nadu's geographical area.

- It is one of the tiger corridors identified by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Olive Ridley Turtles Satellite-Tagged on Chennai Coast

- Context:** Two Olive Ridley sea turtles nesting on the Chennai city beach were **satellite-tagged and released**, marking a major step in marine conservation.
- The two-year study, scheduled to run from **2025 to 2027**, aims at strengthening conservation efforts by using **telemetry technology to monitor turtle behaviour, nesting patterns, and interactions with fishing activities**.
- The **telemetry study aims** at generating data on the Olive Ridelies' migratory routes, foraging grounds, and nesting behaviour, which will help inform future conservation policies.
- The study is being carried out jointly by the **Wildlife Institute of India and the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur**.

Conservation Status of Olive Ridley Turtle

- IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: **Schedule 1**
- CITES: **Appendix I**

AWARDS

Governor's Awards 2025

- Context:** Lok Bhavan announced the **Governor's Awards 2025** under two categories: **Social Service and Environmental Protection**.

Social Service

- Institution category:**
 - Venkatraman Memorial Trust** (Chengalpattu district)

- Recognised for **uplifting government schools in Kovalam village** and improving the **quality of education**.

Individual category:

- R. Siva (Chennai district)**

- Honoured for **rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons affected by leprosy**.

- P. Vijayakumar (Tiruchi district)**

- Recognised for **conducting dignified last rites for abandoned and unclaimed bodies**.

Environmental Protection

Institution category:

- Green Rameswaram Trust** (Ramanathapuram district)

- Acknowledged for **rejuvenation of water bodies and conservation of flora and fauna**, including the **coastal ecosystem of Rameswaram**.

Individual category:

- R. Manikandan** (Coimbatore district)

- Founder of **"Kovai Kulangal Padhukappu Amaippu"**, noted for **restoring water bodies and biodiversity through community participation**.

Tamil Nadu State Awards 2025

Thiruvalluvar Award (2026)	Aagama Arignar M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar
Periyar Award (2025)	A. Arulmozhi
Ambedkar Award (2025)	Chinthanaichelvan
Anna Award (2025)	Duraimurugan (Water Resources Minister)
Kamarajar Award (2025)	S.M. Idayathulla
Bharathiyar Award (2025)	Poet Nellai Jayantha

Bharathidasan Award (2025)	Poet Yugabharathi
Thiru.Vi.Ka. Award (2025)	V. Iraianbu
Ki.Aa.Pe. Viswanatham Award (2025)	Dr. S. Sellappa
Kalaigarnar Award (2025)	Writer Viduthalai Virumbi

Pazhayarai palace, documented by **Puliyur Kizhavan**, with **Rajendra Chola** present.

Historian **K.A. Nilakanta Sastri** notes that Palaiyaru (Pazhayarai) housed the Arulmolideva-Isvara temple, associated with **Rajaraja Chola** and served as a residence for **Kundavai**, his sister.

The ancient Shiva temple at Pazhayarai is noted for its **remarkable late Chola architectural style**.

REPORT / SURVEY

State Indicator Framework 2.0 report

According to the framework Tamil Nadu has achieved near universal coverage under key social indicators.

TN's performance across SDG's

SDG 1- No Poverty: 100% MGNREGA demand net - Rank 1

SDG 3 - Health: Under five mortality 13/1000 - Rank 2

SDG 4 - Education: Higher Education GER 47% - Rank 1

SDG 6 - Water & Sanitation: ODF Districts 100%- Rank 1

SDG 7 - Energy: Household and Electrification 100%

SDG 8 - JOBS: Unemployment down to 4.8%

SDG 13 - Climate & Action: Rank 1 nationally

Tamil Nadu has also ranked among the top states on climate action, disaster resilience and coastal restoration.

Ilakkiya Mamani Awards (2025)

- Traditional Tamil - T. Ramalingam
- Research Tamil - C. Mahendran
- Creative Tamil - R. Narendrakumar

HISTORY & CULTURE

Pazhayarai Somanathar Temple

- Context: The HR&CE Department has begun construction of a **seven-tier gopuram at the Somanathar Temple, Pazhayarai, near Kumbakonam**.
- The **Somanathar Temple is a prominent Saivite shrine**, praised in the hymns of **Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar**.

Historical significance of Pazhayarai

- Once a **residential centre of Chola kings and their families** before Thanjavur became the capital.
- The temple is also known as **Kara Koil**, as its **mahamandapam resembles a chariot**.
- The long-neglected east-facing gopuram came to be called the "mottai gopuram".
- Epigraphic importance**: Inscriptions record a **royal order of Uttama Chola** issued from

NATIONAL - NEWS

Army's Animal Contingent to Debut at Republic Day Parade

- Context: For the **first time**, the Indian Army will showcase a **special animal contingent** of the **Remount & Veterinary Corps (RVC)** at the Republic Day parade on **Kartavya Path**.
- The contingent highlights the **critical role of animals** in India's military operations, especially in **high-altitude and extreme terrains**.
- In line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, the Army has increasingly inducted indigenous dog breeds such as Mudhol Hound, Rampur Hound, Chippiparai, Kombai and Rajapalayam.

Ban on Oral Formulations of Nimesulide Above 100 mg

- The **Union Health Ministry** has **banned oral formulations of nimesulide above 100 mg**.
- **Union Health Ministry** took the **recommendation of the ICMR and Drugs Technical Advisory Board**.
- **Reason for the ban: Serious health risks, especially potential liver toxicity.**

About Nimesulide:

- A **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)** used for **acute pain relief, painful osteoarthritis, and primary dysmenorrhea**.

India's First Bullet Train

- **Union Minister for Railways** stated that the bullet train project is progressing as planned and will be ready for operations in 2027.

- The project marks a major step in **high-speed rail development** and **Indo-Japanese technological collaboration**.

- The bullet train will run on the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor**.

- Its designed operating speed is up to **320 kilometers per hour**.

Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

- **Background:** The new Vande Bharat sleeper train between **Kolkata and Guwahati** is scheduled to be inaugurated soon.

Information about Vande Bharat Express:

- Train 18 is officially named **Vande Bharat Express**.
- It is India's first indigenously manufactured high-speed train.
- This train was manufactured by the **Integral Coach Factory in Chennai**.
- Its maiden journey was on the route from **Varanasi to New Delhi**.

50th meeting of PARGATI

- **Prime Minister** chaired the **50th meeting of PRAGATI**.
- **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)** is a **technology-driven governance and monitoring platform**.
- **Launched in 2015**.
- To improve **public administration and accelerate implementation** of government programmes and projects.

Nuclear power plant list exchange

- **India and Pakistan** exchanged lists of their operational nuclear power plants.
- **Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities** between

Pakistan and India signed on 31st December 1988.

▪ **According to the Agreement,**

- Neither country shall attack the other's nuclear power plants.
- The lists must be exchanged on **January 1st of every year**

Operation Milap

- **Operation Milap, run by the Delhi Police,** is aimed at tracing missing persons especially children.
- Missing person's cases involve coordination with hospitals and transport hubs.
- District police units play a central role in urban public safety.

Financial Stability Report (December 2025)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the Financial Stability Report (FSR), December 2025.
- The report reviews systemic risks, banking sector health, and emerging vulnerabilities in India's financial system.
- The Report also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.

Report status

- India's financial system remains resilient despite global economic uncertainties.
- Strong economic growth, improved bank balance sheets, and adequate capital buffers support stability.
- RBI cautions against new and rising risks that require close monitoring.
- The rupee depreciated against the US dollar due to falling terms of trade, high tariffs and a slowdown in capital flows.

Challenges Faced by Rural, Tribal, and Migrant Groups in Fighting Tuberculosis (TB) in India

▪ **Context:** India accounts for about **27% of global TB cases**, making it one of the most affected countries worldwide.

▪ Rural, tribal, and migrant populations face **multiple barriers** due to poverty, malnutrition, poor living conditions, and limited access to healthcare.

Causes of TB

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- It **affects the lungs** but can also affect other parts of the body.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

- India's flagship program to eliminate TB by **2025**.
- Uses molecular tests like **CBNAAT and TrueNat** for quick and accurate TB detection.

Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

- It is a government scheme that **provides financial and nutritional support** to TB patients to help them recover faster.
- Each TB patient **receives ₹1,000 per month** to buy nutritious food.
- The scheme helps improve **patients' health and treatment** outcomes by addressing undernutrition.

Buddha Relics Exposition

- Prime Minister inaugurated the **Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics** related to Lord Buddha in New Delhi.
- Government of India recognised **Pali** as a classical language.

Kalai-II project granted environmental clearance

- The Kalai-II project is a 1,200-MW hydroelectric scheme planned on the **Lohit River in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Environmentalists flagged the **critically endangered white-bellied heron** found in the project area.
- The white bellied heron is a **Schedule-I species under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.**

Re-circulatory Aquaculture System

- The state-of-the-art Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) Facility in Hyderabad, Telangana by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**
- This is used for high- density culture of various species of fish, utilizing **minimum land area and water.**

Artificial Intelligence Medical Center

- **Background:** India's first government hospital-based Artificial Intelligence medical center has been established at **GIMS Hospital in Greater Noida.**

3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations

- **Background:** India has developed indigenously manufactured 3D-printed automatic weather stations under the **Mission Mausam project.** These will be installed in Delhi from **February 2026.** This is a significant step towards strengthening India's **weather monitoring and forecasting network.**

Mission Mausam

- This project was approved on **September 11, 2024.**
- It is a project of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
- It aims to improve weather and climate services.
- This project is being implemented by **IMD, NCMRWF, and IITM.**

1,000th anniversary of the first attack on the Somnath shrine (1026).

- **Year-long commemorative events** are planned at the temple under the banner "Somnath Swabhiman Parv."
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** led efforts to rebuild the temple after Independence.
- **2026 will also mark 75 years** since the restored Somnath Temple was inaugurated on **May 11, 1951.**

Somnath Temple

- Somnath temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva, located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat.**
- Mahmud of Ghazni attacked and looted the temple and he was the ruler of Afghanistan.
- The present temple was reconstructed in the Chalukya style of Hindu temple architecture.

e-B-4 Business Visa for Chinese Nationals

- India has launched a new **e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4 Visa)** for Chinese nationals.
- The visa is meant for **specific business activities** including installation and commissioning of equipment.
- The **e-B-4 Visa came into effect on January 1.**
- It will be issued in about 45 to 50 days, with permission to stay in India for up to six months.

India ranks first in rice production.

- **Background:** India is the world's leading producer of rice; surpassing China, it produced 150.18 million tons of rice (China: 145.28 million tons, 2024-25).

State-wise rice production ranking (2023-24) – Based on statistics from the Economic Survey report:

- Telangana - 16.63 million tons (~12.17% share)
- Uttar Pradesh - 15.72 million tons (~11.50% share)

- West Bengal - 15.12 million tons (~11.06% share)

IITM Global to Become World's First Multinational IIT

- Union External Affairs Minister launched **IITM Global, Position IIT Madras as the world's first multinational IIT.**
- Marks a major step in **internationalising Indian higher education and innovation.**

Hydrogen-powered train in India

- **Background:** For the first time in India, the manufacturing of a hydrogen-powered train has reached its final stages.
- This hydrogen train is planned to be operated on a trial run between **Jind and Sonipat** in the state of Haryana.

Payment Regulatory Board

- The first meeting of the Payment Regulatory board was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra
- The Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) is the statutory body through which the Reserve Bank of India exercises regulatory and supervisory powers over payment and settlement systems in India.

World's Second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL)

- India has inaugurated the **world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL).**
- Also inaugurated the **world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration.**
- Location at **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi.**
- Only the UK and India currently have such national-level facilities.
- An apex national facility for Testing,

Calibration, Certification of air pollution monitoring equipment under Indian climatic and environmental condition.

Aim:

- To establish India-specific standards for air pollution monitoring instruments.
- To support effective implementation of pollution control policies such as National Clean Air Programme.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

- This programme was launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019.**
- It aims to **reduce the levels of PM10 and PM2.5 particles by 20% by 2024-25**, using 2017 as the base year.
- This target has been revised to **reducing PM10 levels by 40% or achieving national standards (60 µg/m³) by 2025-26.**

India's first urban night safari

- Lucknow is set to introduce **India's first urban night safari** and Aims to blend **wildlife conservation** with **city-based eco-tourism.**
- Located at **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Kukrail Forest Area**, along the **Kukrail River**

Objectives

- Promote **urban eco-tourism.**
- Strengthen **wildlife conservation awareness** among urban residents.
- Allow families and students to observe **nocturnal animal behaviour** without travelling to distant forests.
- Integrate **conservation, education, and recreation** through a sustainable urban model.

National Highways from Agricultural Waste

- **Background:** CSIR-CRRI and CSIR-IIP have successfully undertaken an indigenous technology transfer titled "Bio-bitumen through Pyrolysis: Roads from Agricultural Waste," creating a significant advancement in India's green road construction.
- This initiative has laid the foundation for India to become a leading nation in the generation of 'cleaner, greener highways'.
- In the construction of national highways, renewable materials will be replaced with materials produced from agricultural waste through pyrolysis.
- The Central Road Research Institute and the Indian Institute of Petroleum are jointly contributing to the construction of these green roads.
- India is the first country in the world to commercially produce bitumen from agricultural waste.

Drone Data Repository

- **Context:** Country's first state level Drone Data Repository has been launched in Madhya Pradesh. It will make administrative process more streamlined, robust and transparent.
- DDR is a centralized cloud based secure and interoperable digital infrastructure that lays the groundwork for the future of geospatial governance.
- It stores high quality drone data including the high resolution orthomosaics, 3D terrain models, LIDAR Scans, video imagery, legacy baseline data and multi departmental survey records.

Centre to Launch Cashless Treatment Scheme

- The Centre will launch a scheme providing cashless medical treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims across India.
- The scheme will apply to all road accidents, not limited to national highways.
- Based on an AIIMS study, timely treatment within the first 60 minutes ("Golden Hour") can reduce road fatalities by up to 30%.
- Individuals (termed "Rahavir") who take accident victims to hospitals will receive a cash award of ₹25,000.
- The scheme was successfully piloted in Assam, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Puducherry.

Innuyir Kaapom Nammai Kaakum 48 Scheme

- The Tamil Nadu "Innuyir Kappom - Nammai Kaakkum 48" scheme, providing free emergency care for road accident victims, was launched on December 18, 2021 by Chief Minister.
- The government pays for the medical bills of all accident victims in enlisted hospitals for treatment within 48 hours of the accident.
- Those who are not eligible for the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme are also covered under the scheme.
- The free treatment will be provided with the collaboration of Department of Highways and Department of Transport.
- The state government has raised the insurance cover for the treatment up to 2 lakh for the accident victims (initially 1 lakh).

India Reaffirms Commitment to International Solar Alliance

- **Context:** The **United States announced its withdrawal from ISA** through an executive order signed on **January 7**, citing concerns over funding and effectiveness of certain international organisations.
- India will continue to **work with and support the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to promote solar energy adoption and energy transition goals.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The **125-member alliance was conceptualised on the sidelines of COP21 in Paris in 2015** and was formally instituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France Francois Hollande.
- It aspires to **unlock \$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030** whilst reducing technology and financing costs relating to solar implementation.
- The sources stated that the alliance's programmes are operational in more than 95 countries and had supported creation of national pipelines, regulatory frameworks, and market creation.

Asha Van' Mobile Unit

- **Gujarat launches Asha Van**, a mobile cancer screening unit bringing advanced medical technology to villages and remote areas.
- Asha Van is a fully equipped mobile medical unit **created for cancer screening and diagnosis.**
- This mobile unit is capable of identifying signs of several serious diseases, especially different types of cancer.

National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)

- **Background:** The National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) has been established at the National Security Guard (NSG) camp in **Manesar, Gurugram district, Haryana.**
- It will serve as a **next-generation security measure against terrorism and a preventive measure against bomb blasts.**
- This national data management system on explosives, **aided by artificial intelligence technology**, will create a robust security system by integrating with other data.
- This system will analyse and provide operational data on bomb blasts to the police, intelligence agencies, state anti-terrorism squads, and central forces such as the NIA.
- **India is ranked 14th in the Global Terrorism Index for 2025.**

Bharat Steel Awards

- **The Ministry of Steel, Government of India**, has introduced a new awards scheme called the **"Bharat Steel Awards"** to recognize outstanding performance and significant contributions in **key areas of the steel sector.**

Data-driven zero-fatalities programme

- **Context:** The **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, in collaboration with **Save Life Foundation**, launched a data-driven zero-fatalities programme to reduce road accident deaths.
- The initiative aligns with the government's target to **cut road deaths by 50% by 2030**

- **100 high-risk districts** across **15 States** have been identified based on the highest number of road crashes.

- **The programme has already been rolled out in:**

• Uttar Pradesh	-	20 districts
• Tamil Nadu	-	19 districts
• Maharashtra	-	11 districts
• Karnataka	-	9 districts

Kathputli Puppetry

- **Context: Jaipur's Kathputli Nagar**, home to nearly 250 families of traditional puppeteers, has drawn attention for preserving one of **Rajasthan's oldest living folk art traditions.**
- **Kathputli** is a form of **traditional string puppetry of Rajasthan**, where wooden dolls dressed in colourful costumes are animated with strings to narrate stories of kings, warriors, folklore and moral tales.

Traditional Puppetry of Tamil Nadu

- Tolu bommalatam (shadow)
- Bommalatam (string-cum-rod)
- Pava koothu (glove)

Agreements signed between India and Germany.

- 19 key agreements were signed between India and Germany to strengthen cooperation in various sectors, including defence, trade, and technology.
- **Visa-free travel permission** was announced for Indians travelling to other countries via Germany.
- This is **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's first official visit to Asian countries.**
- The **India-Germany Higher Education Action Plan** was signed.



NATIONAL SCHEMES

Sudarshan Chakra Project

- This is a flagship national security project of DRDO that will protect India's critical resources and population from **aerial, missile, drone, and hypersonic attacks by 2035** with an AI-enabled, indigenous multi-layered defense shield.
- Like Israel's 'Iron Dome', it will integrate satellite surveillance, missile interception, and laser weapons.

SAMPANN

- This is an integrated online pension management system for pensioners of the telecommunications department.
- It facilitates the processing, sanctioning, and disbursement of pensions directly into the pensioners' bank accounts, all on a single platform.

Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

- This scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the Semicon India program**.
- Under this scheme, a robust and self-reliant chip design ecosystem will be promoted by providing financial incentives along with advanced design infrastructure to **domestic startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- **Launched in 2021**, this mission aims to make India a **global electronics manufacturing hub** and increase India's participation in the semiconductor value chain.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.

Tex-RAMPS Scheme

- **Context** :The Ministry of Textiles signed MoUs with 15 States under the Tex-RAMPS scheme.

Agreements were signed during the national textile ministers conference held in Guwahati.

- To Strengthen data-driven policymaking and promote coordinated development of the textile sector across States.

Tex-RAMPS:

- Stands for **Textiles focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-Up**.
- Aims to improve the **coverage, quality, timeliness, and credibility** of textile-related statistics and research.

SAMUDRAYAAN

- India's **first manned deep-sea mission**, 'Samudrayaan', is getting ready to be launched soon.
- In this project, the indigenously developed '**Matsya 6000**' submersible will be used to conduct research at depths of up to 6,000 meters.

Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

- The **Union Ministry of Agriculture** has proposed to **merge three separate** ongoing schemes with its **flagship Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**.

About Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

- Launched in 2007, it focuses on incentivizing states to increase public investment in **agriculture and allied sectors**.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It is aimed at **accelerating agricultural growth and improving farmers' income**.
- The scheme adopts a **decentralized approach**, granting flexibility to states in designing programs based on local needs, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices and better livelihoods for farming communities across India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mind–Body Wellness Day

- International Mind–Body Wellness Day is observed annually on **January 3**.
- To spread awareness about the deep connection between mental health and physical health and promote preventive healthcare practices.

National Bird Day

- National Bird Day 2026 will be observed on **January 5**.
- To highlight the ecological importance of birds and the urgent need for conservation.
- **Salim Ali is fondly known as the “Birdman of India.”**

World Braille Day

- World Braille Day, is observed on **January 4**.
- It highlights the importance of Braille in ensuring education, equality, and dignity for persons with visual impairments.
- It is celebrated in commemoration of the birthday of Louis Braille, the creator of the Braille writing system.

World Day of War Orphans

- World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on **January 6**.
- To highlight the hardships faced by children who lose parents in wars.

Earth’s Rotation Day 2026

- Earth's Rotation Day 2026 is observed on **January 8**.
- It marks 175 years of Léon Foucault's pendulum experiment proving Earth's rotation.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- It is observed every year on **January 9** to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contribution of the **Overseas Indian community to India’s** development.
- It is also known as **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day**.
- It marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915, a moment that later shaped India’s freedom struggle.

World Hindi Day

- **World Hindi Day 2026** (also known as **Vishwa Hindi Diwas**) is observed every year on **January 10**.
- It is celebrated globally to promote **Hindi at the international level**.

National Youth Day 2026

- National Youth Day is observed every year on **January 12**, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.

World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026

- **January 12** was celebrated as World Tamil diaspora Day every year.
- Theme 2026: **‘Thamizhal Inaivom, Dharaniyil Uyarvom’**

REPORTS & INDICES

Employment and Social Trends 2026 Report

- Recently, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** released its latest **World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO)** Report highlighting persistent inequalities in the global labour market.
- Projected to remain at a **historically low 4.9%**, affecting about **186 million people** worldwide.
- Over **two billion workers** globally remain in informal jobs.
- Between 2015 and 2025, extreme working poverty declined by only 3.1 percentage points (to 7.9%), compared to a 15 percentage-point decline in the previous decade.

About the International Labour Organization (ILO)

- **Founded:** 1919; became the first specialized UN agency in 1946.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.

Other Key Flagship Reports Published by the ILO

- Global Wage Report
- Global Employment Trends for Youth
- Social Protection Reports
- World Social Protection Report.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

- **NITI Aayog** has released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024** to assess how ready **Indian States and UTs** are to drive India's export-led growth.
- It highlights the role of **States and districts in driving exports**, jobs, and global value chain integration, with emphasis on infrastructure, competitiveness, and cluster-led strategies.
- The **top-performing Large States** are **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (2nd place), Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- The leading Small States, North-Eastern States, and Union Territories include **Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Goa.**

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- The **People of Gopallapuram**, journalist Shubashree Desikan's translation of Ki. Rajanarayanan's **Gopallapurathu Makkal.**

EMINENT PERSONALITIES

Savitribai Phule

- Born on **January 3, 1831**, in Naigaon village, **Satara district, Maharashtra**.
- In 1848, along with her **husband Jyotirao Phule**, she started the first school for girls in **Bhidewada, Maharashtra**.
- She is hailed as India's first female teacher.
- In **1852**, she established the '**Mahila Seva Mandal**' organization.
- In 1863, she started the **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Home for Prevention of Infanticide)**.
- In 1852, the British government awarded her the '**Best Teacher Award**'.
- In 1998, the Government of India issued a **postage stamp** in her honour.
- In **2015**, **Pune University** was renamed after her.

Veeramangai Rani Velu Nachiyar

- Born: **January 3, 1730, Ramanathapuram**
- Parents: Father – **Sellamuthu Vijayaragunatha Sethupathi**, Mother – **Sakkanthi Muthaathal Nachiyar**.
- From a young age, she mastered martial arts such as **swordsmanship, archery, spear throwing, and horse riding**.
- In 1746, she married **Muthuvaduganatha, the king of Sivaganga**.
- Key event: In **1772**, **Muthuvaduganatha** died a heroic death in the **Kalaiyar Kovil battle against the British**.

- **Struggle against the British**: She fought with the support of **Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan, and Dindigul Gopal Nayakkar**. In 1780, she recaptured the Sivaganga kingdom from the British.

- She ruled the Sivaganga kingdom effectively for 16 years.

- The "**first Indian female freedom fighter**" to oppose the British.

- **Died**: December 25, 1796

Veerapandiya Kattabomman

- Kattabomman was born on **January 3, 1760**.
- His father was **Jagaveera Pandiyan**, his mother was **Arumugathammal**, his wife was **Jakkammal**, and his brothers were **Oomathurai (Kumarasamy) and Sevathaiah**.
- The British forces defeated Kattabomman in the **Battle of Kollarpatti**. Later, Kattabomman was captured from the **Kalappur forest** by the **king of Pudukkottai, Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaiman**, and handed over to the British.

- Kattabomman was hanged at **Kayathar** on **October 16, 1799**.

Madhav Gadgil

- He was born in **Pune, Maharashtra, in 1942**.
- He played a key role in shaping **India's ecological research and conservation policy**.
- He established the **Centre for Ecological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru**.
- In 2024, the United Nations awarded him the '**Champions of the Earth**' award, which is the **UN's highest environmental award**.

Gadgil Commission 2011

- Madhav Gadgil chaired the **Western Ghats Expert Panel** constituted by the Central Government.
- This committee studied population pressure, climate change, and development activities in the Western Ghats region.
- The report recommended a ban on development and commercial activities such as mining, thermal power plants, environmentally polluting industries, and large housing projects in the **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)** zones.
- He founded the **Desh Bandhu Youth Association** and led protests against the British.
- On **January 11, 1932**, he died from injuries sustained during a police attack on the **banks of the Noyyal River in Tiruppur**, during a protest rally against the British government.
- At the time of his death, he was carrying the flag of the Indian nationalists, which had been banned by the British.
- This is why he earned the nickname '**Kodi Kaatha Kumaran**' (Kumaran who protected the flag).

Tiruppur Kumaran

- He was born on **October 4, 1904**, in **Chennimalai**, Erode district.
- To commemorate his **100th birthday**, the Indian Postal Department issued a commemorative **postage stamp in October 2004**.

SPORTS & GAMES

National Mountaineering Championship 2025

- **Amira Gosla (14)** won the gold medal in the Under-17 girls' category at the **29th National Sport Climbing Championship 2025**, held in **Bengaluru** from December 26 to 29.

India's First Triathlon Competition

- **Background:** India's first "Ironman 5i50 Triathlon" and "Duosca Duathlon" competitions were flagged off by the Deputy Chief Minister near MGM Beach Resort on the East Coast Road in Chennai.
- Designed based on the Olympic distance (51.50 km), the competition included a 40 km cycling race and a 10 km running race.

DEFENCE

Pralay Missile

- The indigenously developed 'Pralay' missile was successfully tested at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- Pralay is a short-range, surface-to-surface, state-of-the-art missile.
- This missile has been developed by DRDO.
- It is capable of carrying up to 1,000 kg of explosives and has a range of up to 500 kilometers.

Army Signs Deal for Long-Range Rocket Launchers

- The Indian Army has signed a **Rs.293-crore contract** with private defence firm **NIBE Ltd** in collaboration with Israel, for the supply of an advanced long-range rocket launcher system with strike capabilities of 150 km and 300 km.
- The system is being developed in collaboration with **Israeli defence major Elbit Systems**.
- The system, **Suryastra**, is **India's first Made in India universal multi-calibre rocket launcher**.
- It capable of executing precision **surface-to-surface strikes at ranges up to 300 km**.

Samudra Pratap

- Defence Minister commission the **Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Pratap in Goa**.
- The vessel is equipped with advanced systems to detect oil spills, enabling comprehensive pollution response operations within the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.

- It is capable of high precision operations, **recover pollutants from viscous oil, analyse contaminants, and separate oil from contaminated water**.

'Samudra Pratap'

- **Defence Minister** commissioned **ICGS Samudra Pratap in Goa**.
- It is the **first of two indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs)** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- Built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** with over 60% indigenous content.
- Its induction substantially enhances the ICG's capability in pollution response, fire-fighting, maritime safety, environmental protection, and extended surveillance across the country's vast maritime zones.
- It is 114.5 meters long and weighs 4,200 tons

Portable Water Purifier for Soldiers

- DRDO has developed a hand-operated **Sea Water Desalination System (SWaDeS)** for soldiers deployed in remote and coastal areas.
- The system can convert saline water into safe drinking water, ensuring reliable hydration during long patrols and deployments in water-scarce regions.

2026 - The Year of Networking and Data Centricity

- **Background:** The Indian Army has declared 2026 as the '**Year of Networking and Data Centricity**'.
- Data centricity refers to treating information as a key warfighting tool.

- This enables real-time decision-making and rapid targeting.
- This initiative supports joint operations among the three armed forces.

Ramjet Engine

- **Background:** The Indian Army is set to use 155mm artillery shells fitted with a ramjet engine for the first time in the world. This technology has been jointly developed by IIT Madras and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Ramjet Engine

- Since it operates by drawing in air, it does not require a turbine or compressor.
- These shells strike at **Mach 2 speed and travel 30-50% farther** than conventional shells.
- This technology, developed under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)** initiative, will help in accurately striking **long-range targets**.
- This technology can be integrated into and used to upgrade existing 155mm artillery shells.

Indian Navy's Joint Exercise with Southeast Asian Countries

- **Background:** Warships from the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, namely **INS Tir (training ship), INS Shardul (warship), INS Sujata (patrol vessel), and ICGS Sarathi**, are undertaking a long-distance deployment to Southeast Asia as part of an integrated training exercise.

- During this deployment, the ships are scheduled to visit major ports in **Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand**.
- The objective of this exercise is to provide the officers serving on the warships with extensive **operational experience and multi-cultural training**.
- This initiative is in line with **India's Act East Policy** and its vision for the **Indo-Pacific region and aims to strengthen India's maritime cooperation with Southeast Asian countries**.

DRDO Successfully Tests Scramjet Engine

- **Context:** The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a key breakthrough in India's hypersonic missile programme. The test was conducted by the **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad**.
- A **full-scale, actively-cooled scramjet combustor** underwent a **long-duration ground test**.

- Conducted at DRDL's Scramjet Connect Pipe Test Facility, a state-of-the-art testing centre.
- The scramjet combustor demonstrated **sustained performance for over 12 minutes**, a critical benchmark.
- The successful trial positions India among the global leaders in **advanced hypersonic, aerospace technologies**.

CURRENT FACTS

- **U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer**, known as **Tamil Thatha** (the grand old man of Tamil).
- **Chandrayaan-1 (2008)** confirmed the presence of water molecules.
- **Chandrayaan-2 (2019)** mapped the moon with high precision.
- **Chandrayaan-3** made India the first nation to land near the **lunar south pole** on **August 23, 2023**
- In 2014, India became the **first Asian nation and only the fourth in the world** to reach Mars orbit – and on its maiden attempt, with the **Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)**.
- The **Aditya-L1 mission (2023)**, built through multi-institutional collaboration, is providing unprecedented insights into the sun's corona and its impact on space weather.
- XPOsat (2024) is studying black holes, while SpaDeX (2024) has demonstrated in-orbit docking for future space stations and lunar missions.
- **National Space Day 2025 (August 23)**.
- **India's G-20 Presidency in 2023**, India announced a "G20 satellite" for climate and environmental monitoring with data shared with all nations.
- **Operation Sagar Bandhu** was the humanitarian mission undertaken by India to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Titwa.
- **Madhya Pradesh** is called the 'Tiger State'.
- **Goa** has declared **Kushavati** as its third district.
- **Jambutheevu Prakadanam**
- On **June 16, 1801**, **Chinna Marudu**, younger of the Marudu Brothers, the rulers of the **Sivaganga**, gave a call to destroy British and other European powers in India.
- This was known as **Jambutheevu Prakadanam** or **Srirangam Prakadanam** as the notices were affixed on the walls of the **Tiruchi Fort and the Ranganathaswamy Temple**.
- **K.B. Sundarambal**
- Legendary singer and stage artist **K.B. Sundarambal** created history in the post-Independence era by becoming the **first film artist in India** to be nominated to a **Legislative Council**.
- A staunch **Congress activist**, she had taken part in the **freedom movement**.
- **Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary**
- The **Srivilliputhur** Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary was established in **1988** to protect the Grizzled Squirrel.
- In 2021, this sanctuary, combined with the **Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary**, was declared Tamil Nadu's fifth Tiger Reserve.
- **Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras**
- The Constitution had to be amended in the light of the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in the **Romesh Thappar vs State of Madras**, also known as the Cross Roads case.

- **“This was the first case** in which violation of **Article 19(1) (a)** of the Indian Constitution conferring the right to freedom of speech and expression was alleged.”
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**COP30**) conference held at **Belem, Brazil**.
- **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, espoused by **India at COP26, in Glasgow in 2021**.
- The Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025 are to come into effect from **April 1, 2026**.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission** (‘Clean India Mission’) was launched in **2014**.
- Surat (Gujarat), known as India’s **“Diamond Capital”**, is set to become the country’s **first fully slum-free city**.
- **Under Representation of the People Act**, Membership of the Legislative Assembly will be terminated if a court sentences a **member to two years’ imprisonment or more**.
- **TeleMANAS-14416** (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States).
- National Cadet Corps (NCC) comes under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Acid attack**: In 2023, **57 reported acid attacks took place in West Bengal**, 31 in Uttar Pradesh, and 15 in Gujarat, the three worst affected States.
- **IUCN Status**: **Back Necked Stork** – Near Threatened, **Citrine Wagtail** – Least Concern.
- India **hosts 75%** of the world’s tiger populace. According to 2022 report India’s tiger **population is 3682**.
- **Pavendhar Bharathidasan’s** original name was **Kanagasubburatnam**. Due to his admiration for Bharathiyar, he changed his name to Bharathidasan. His work ‘**Pisiranthaiyar**’ was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1969**.
- M.P. Sivagnanam, known as ‘**Silambu Chelvar**’, was the one who fought and succeeded in reclaiming **Thiruttani** when the states were reorganized on linguistic lines. He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1966** for his book ‘**Vallalar Kanda Orumaippadu**’ (The Unity Envisioned by Vallalar).
- **Thadou tribe** who live in the hill country adjacent to the Imphal Valley in Manipur.
- **India loses 0.4% of its GDP every year to natural disasters**. India’s vulnerability is primarily hydrological (non-storm-related floods and landslides).
- The **Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission** was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in **1999**.
- The **Indian giant squirrel (Ratufa indica)** is the state animal of Maharashtra and is also known as the ‘**Malabar giant squirrel**’. It is found in the **Western Ghats and the Sahyadri mountains**.
- **India’s current nuclear power generation capacity is 8.78 gigawatts**, and India aims to increase it to **100 gigawatts by 2047**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation** was established in **2024** for setting up **solar, wind, and hydroelectric power plants**, as well as electric vehicle charging stations in Tamil Nadu.
- **M. Fathima Beevi** was appointed as **the first female judge of the Supreme Court in 1989**.

- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration** has approved, for the first time, an oral tablet called **Mitapivat** for the treatment of **anemia in adults with thalassemia**.
- From Volga to Ganga (**Volgavilirundhu Gangai Varai**) by **Rahul Sankrityayan (1893-1963)**.
- **A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey**, co-author by **Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian**.
- **Article 21** - right to personal liberty and life
- **Hindu Kush Himalayan region** includes 8 countries: India, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- **IUCN Status: Eastern Imperial Eagle - Vulnerable**
- **Most** of the water on **Earth, 97.4%, is seawater (saltwater)**. **Only less than 3 percent** of the remaining water is **freshwater**, and of that, **1.8% is frozen** in glaciers.
- Aditya-L1 reached the **Lagrangian point (L1) on January 6, 2024**. It took **127 days** after launch on **September 2, 2023** to reach L1.
- Union Education Minister officially released 55 volumes of literary works in classical Indian languages such as Kannada, Odia, Telugu, Malayalam, and Tamil, along with a sign-language series of the **Tirukkural by Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar**.
- The United Nations has declared 2026 to be the **'International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists'**.
- **Election Commission**, states that our constitutional duty to ensure there are no foreign voters as far as possible.
- **World Tamil Disapora Day- January 12**
- **India's solar module** manufacturing has **increased to more than twice since last year**, the solar module manufacturing has **increased 128.6%** on a year-over-year basis to 144 gigawatts (GW) in 2025.
- **The RailOne app** is a comprehensive mobile application for Indian Railways passengers, providing integrated services through a single platform.
- **Competition Commission of India**
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI), constituted under the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- The CCI functions as a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs with its headquarters in New Delhi**.
- **Biohappiness**
- **Biohappiness**, a concept coined by its founder and late agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan,
- **Keyi Panyor in Arunachal Pradesh** to become India's 1st Bio-Happy District.
- **In Search of Biohappiness: Biodiversity and Food, Health and Livelihood Security** written by **M.S. Swaminathan**
- Article 324 – Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

- The share of senior citizens is projected to be around 18% of the State's overall population in 2031, against little less than 11% in 2011. In other words, with about 72% growth, Tamil Nadu is witnessing the fastest rate of ageing among all States.
- **PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub)**, PARIVESH is a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System, developed in pursuance of the spirit of 'Digital India', by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- The **Chennai Connemara Public Library** was inaugurated on December 5, 1896.
- The **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**, often called the "Nirbhaya Act".
- **TN Forest Act - 1882**
- **This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India** was written by Indian ecologist **Madhav Gadgil** and historian **Ramachandra Guha**.
- Prime Minister appointed distinguished scientist **A.K. Balasubrahmanian** as the Chairman of the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**.
- **Article 350** of the Constitution states that it is the duty of the state to protect the rights of linguistic minorities.
- **Tamil Nadu** currently has an economic **growth rate of 11.19%**, making it a leading state in India.
- According to Section 3 of the **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**, both demanding and giving dowry are crimes, and if the crime is proven, the accused will be sentenced to **5 years imprisonment or fined Rs. 15,000** or the amount of the dowry, whichever is higher.
- **Vairamuthu's** novel '**Kallikkattu Ithikasam**' received the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003**.
- **Mu. Mehta's** first poetry collection was '**Kanneer Pookkal**'. His second book was '**Oorvalam**'. He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006** for his collection '**Akayathukku Adutha Veedu**'.
- India contributes **25 percent** to **global milk production**.
- The **Bharat Pashudhan** website helps in recording activities such as livestock breeding, artificial insemination, health services, and vaccinations.
- The **Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign** aims to **reduce the prevalence of child marriages by 10% by 2026** and make India a **child marriage-free country by 2030**.
- **Balod district in Chhattisgarh** declared itself **India's first child marriage-free district in 2025**.
- On **September 17, 2025**, the Surajpur district administration in **Chhattisgarh** declared **75 Gram Panchayats** as "**child marriage-free panchayats**".
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has stated that a logo called '**Udai**' has been introduced to help the public easily understand Aadhaar services.
- The **population census** is a **Union subject** under **Article 246** of India Constitution.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for **28% of India's textile exports**.
- **Chief Election Commissioner of India: Gyanesh Kumar**.

- In **January 1026**, **Somnath** faced its **first** recorded **attack** by **Mahmud of Ghazni** (**Mark 1,000 years**).
- **84th Constitutional Amendment (2001)**: Froze Lok Sabha seat allocation till the first Census after 2026 to incentivise population stabilisation.
- **Bagurumba dance** is a traditional dance performed by the **Bodo tribal** people of **Assam**.
- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has listed the **Western Ghats** as an important **freshwater biodiversity hotspot**.
- **India's first quantum computing village** was launched in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Tangeti Janvi** from **Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh**, became the **first Indian** to complete **NASA's International Air and Space Program**.
- The **Kerala** government has officially renamed the **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** as the **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**. It is now **India's first butterfly sanctuary**.
- **Bhashini AI**: Under the **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)**, its objective is to **remove language barriers and ensure access to digital services in all Indian languages**.
- **India ranks first in the production of handloom** products for export.
- The discoveries at **Keezhadi** have confirmed a **4,000-year-old** history for the Tamils. Evidence of rice cultivation has been found at **Keezhadi**.
- **Article 326 of the Indian constitution: The right to vote**. The **elections** to the **House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly** of every State shall be on the basis of **adult suffrage**.
- **Article 142** empowers the Supreme Court to **pass any order or decree** necessary for **complete justice** in any pending case before it. This power is **discretionary and unique to the apex court**.
- **Article 21A of the Indian constitution: Right to education**
- **India** is the **world's third-largest crude oil importer and consumer of crude oil**, after the **United States and China**.
- Tamil Nadu has been **ranked first in organ donation for 6 consecutive years**.
- India ranks **3rd globally** in organ transplant surgeries, after the **USA and China**.
- **Human Organ Transplant Act** enacted in **1994**.
- The year **2026** marks the **75th anniversary** of the establishment of **diplomatic relations** between **India and Iran**.
- World Bank raised India's **GDP growth projection for FY 2025–26 to 7.2%**, up by **0.9 percentage points** from its June forecast.