

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

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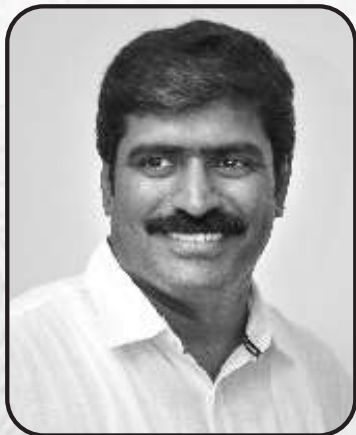
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# ***Preface***



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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.

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# 1. HISTORY



## 1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date              | Day                                          | Theme / Remark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 1</b> | <b>48th Raising Day</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 48th Raising Day on February 1, 2024, in New Delhi, commemorating its origin on February 1, 1977.</li><li>▪ ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 on February 1, 1977.</li></ul>                                                                                                   |
| <b>February 2</b> | <b>World Wetlands Day</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ World Wetlands Day was celebrated annually on 2 February.</li><li>▪ It aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.</li><li>▪ The day commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.</li><li>▪ Theme 2024: Wetlands and human wellbeing</li></ul> |
| <b>February 4</b> | <b>International Day of Human Fraternity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ International Day of Human Fraternity is observed every year on February 4 to emphasize the importance of the concept of unity in diversity.</li><li>▪ The day was first observed by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2020.</li></ul>                                                                                   |
| <b>February 5</b> | <b>World Cancer Day</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ World Cancer Day is observed on February 5 every year to raise awareness about the disease and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.</li><li>▪ Theme 2024 : 'Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care.'</li></ul>                                                                                     |

| Date                             | Day                                             | Theme / Remark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 9</b>                | <b>Abolition of Bonded Labor Day</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tamil Nadu Government has announced that <b>February 9</b> will be observed as <b>Bonded Labor Eradication Day</b> every year.</li> <li>The State Government aims to make <b>Tamil Nadu a Bonded Labor Free State by 2030.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>10 February and 10 August</b> | <b>National Deworming Day</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Deworming Day (NDD)</b> is observed twice in a year on <b>10 February and 10 August</b> to raise awareness about the symptoms, causes, and harmful effects of parasitic <b>worm infections in children</b>, and the importance of <b>deworming treatment</b>.</li> <li>It is an initiative taken by the <b>Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</b></li> </ul>       |
| <b>February 10</b>               | <b>World Pulses Day</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Pulses Day</b> is celebrated every year to create awareness about the significance of pulses and how it can help in body functions.</li> <li>The day was first observed in 2018.</li> <li><b>International Year of Pulses</b> is observed in 2016.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>February 10</b>               | <b>International Day of the Arabian Leopard</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Day is observed for the first time on <b>February 10, 2024</b> as the <b>International Day of the Arabian Leopard</b></li> <li>The day was proclaimed by the <b>United Nations General Assembly</b></li> <li><b>IUCN Red List - Critically Endangered.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                |
| <b>February 11</b>               | <b>World Unani Day</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Unani Day</b> is celebrated every year on <b>11th February</b> marking birth anniversary of famous <b>Indian Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan.</b></li> <li>It is officially recognized as one of the <b>AYUSH systems.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>February 12</b>               | <b>National Productivity Day</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Productivity Day</b> is observed every year on <b>February 12</b> to mark the foundation day of the <b>National Productivity Council (NPC).</b></li> <li>NPC aims to promote awareness towards increasing the <b>productivity of the country.</b></li> <li><b>Theme 2024:</b> Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India's G20 Presidency.</li> </ul> |

| Date               | Day                               | Theme / Remark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 12</b> | <b>International Epilepsy Day</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Epilepsy Day is observed on the <b>2nd Monday of February every year.</b></li> <li>The day is observed to raise awareness about epilepsy, its diagnosis, treatment, and the challenges faced by those living with the condition.</li> <li>In <b>2024</b> the day was observed on <b>February 12, 2024.</b></li> <li><b>Theme 2024:</b> "Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey"</li> </ul>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>February 13</b> | <b>National Women's Day</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Women's Day</b> is observed every year on <b>February 13</b> to commemorate the birth anniversary of <b>Sarojini Naidu.</b></li> <li><b>Sarojini Naidu</b> was a distinguished political figure as well as a distinguished writer.</li> <li>She was given the honour of being called the "<b>Nightingale of India</b>" by <b>Mahatma Gandhi.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>International Women's Day</b> is observed every year on <b>March 8.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>February 13</b> | <b>World Radio Day</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Radio Day</b> is observed on <b>February 13</b> every year to celebrate the usage of Radio.</li> <li>The day was established in 2011 by UNESCO.</li> <li><b>Theme 2024:</b> "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>February 17</b> | <b>World Pangolin Day</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World Pangolin Day</b> is observed annually on the <b>third Saturday in February and in 2024</b> it takes place on February 17.</li> <li>The day is observed to raise awareness for the conservation's efforts of one of the world's most trafficked mammals.</li> <li>The day is observed in India with special focus on the <b>plight of the Indian Pangolin.</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>February 19</b> | <b>Soil Health Card Day</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil Health Card Day is observed on <b>February 19</b> every year to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme and to raise awareness of its advantages.</li> <li>SHC Scheme was launched on <b>19 February 2015.</b></li> <li>SHC is a printed report which contains nutrient status of soil with respect to <b>12 nutrients</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           |



| Date               | Day                                         | Theme / Remark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 20</b> | <b>Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arunachal Pradesh celebrated its <b>38th Statehood Day on 20 February</b></li> <li><b>On 20th February 1987</b>, Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged State.</li> <li>It was known as the <b>North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)</b> till 1972.</li> <li><b>On 20 January 1972</b>, it gained the status of a Union Territory and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Article 371H</b> deals with the special provisions for the state of Arunachal Pradesh</li> </ul> |
| <b>February 21</b> | <b>International Mother Language Day</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The day is observed on <b>21 February every year</b> to spread awareness about the importance of linguistic, cultural diversity, and multilingualism.</li> <li><b>2024 theme</b> "Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning".</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>February 24</b> | <b>Tamil Nadu Girl Child Protection Day</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 24, which marks the <b>birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa</b>, is observed as the 'State Girl Child Protection Day'.</li> <li>The day was first observed in <b>2020</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>February 28</b> | <b>National Science Day</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every year <b>February 28</b> is observed as <b>National Science Day</b> to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Scientist <b>CV Raman</b>.</li> <li><b>Theme 2024</b> : "Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat"</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## 1.2 DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

### Sada Tanseeq Exercise

- The first joint military exercise, **Sada Tanseeq**, between the **India and the Saudi Arabia** was concluded at **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- The 12-day exercise aimed to achieve interoperability between the two forces.

### 'Dosti-16' Exercise

- The **16th edition** of the **India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral Exercise** known as '**Dosti-16**' is being held in Maldives.

- Dosti exercise first began in 1991 between India and Maldives.
- Sri Lanka joined the exercise in 2012.

### 'Dharma Guardian'

- The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise "**Dharma Guardian**" was held between **India and Japan in Rajasthan**.
- It is an annual exercise and is conducted alternatively between India and Japan.



## 1.3 WORLD SUMMITS AND ORGANISATIONS

### Raisina Dialogue

- The **ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world.

## 1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

### Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati (1824 - 1883)

- 200th Birth Anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati was observed recently.
- His original name was **Mula Shankar**.
- He was a disciple of **Swami Virajananda**.
- He founded the **Arya Samaj**.

## 1.5 SPORTS AND GAMES

### Khelo India Youth Games 2023

- The **6th edition of Khelo India Youth Games** was concluded at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai**.
- **Maharashtra** bagged the overall championships for the **fourth time**.
- **Tamil Nadu** finished **second** and **Haryana** finished **third**.
- **Silambam** which is a **traditional sport of Tamil Nadu** was introduced as a demo sport for the first time.

### 2024 Badminton Asia Team Championship

- **India** **beat Thailand** to win its first ever Badminton Asia Team Championships
- This is the **first time India is winning gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships**

## 1.6 AWARDS & HONOURS

### Bharat Ratna

- Former Deputy Prime Minister **L.K. Advani** was announced **Bharat Ratna** which is India's highest civilian honour by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- In 2015, he was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour**.
- The **Bharat Ratna** was conferred on former Prime Ministers **P.V. Narasimha Rao** and **Chaudhary Charan Singh** and Green Revolution pioneer **M.S. Swaminathan**.
- **M.S. Swaminathan** – Played an instrumental role in Green Revolution and towards food self-sufficiency in India
- **P.V. Narasimha Rao** - Credited with steering the liberalisation of Indian Economy
- **Chaudhary Charan Singh** - Credited as a leader of farmers in North India

### Grammy Awards

- **Shakti group** won the **2024 Grammy Award** for Best Global Music Album for the album. **This Moment**.
- **Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, Ustad Zakir Hussain** and **V. Selvaganesh** are collaborators in the **fusion group 'Shakti'**.
- **Ustad Zakir Hussain** won **two other awards** – the Best Global Music Performance for 'Pashto' and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for 'As We Speak'.

### National Film Awards renamed

- **National Film Awards** have been renamed on the recommendation of the **Committee for Rationalisation of Film Awards**.
- The committee was set up by the **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** to rationalise the honours given in different categories.
- It was headed by **Neerja Sekhar**

### Jnanpith Award

- **Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya** have been selected for the 58th Jnanpith Award recently.
- Jnanpith is considered to be **India's highest literary honour**.
- The Jnanpith Award is presented by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith**, which was established in 1944.

### "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur".

- **Shashi Tharoor** recently received France's highest civilian award, "**Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur**".
- **Durga Charan Rakshit** was the **first Indian** to receive this award.

### Kalaighar Ezhudhukol Award

- Senior journalist **V.N.Samy** was awarded the **Kalaighar Ezhudhukol Award** recently for the year 2022.
- '**Kalaighar Ezhudhukol Award**' is awarded for journalists who strive for the welfare of the society.
- The award carries **Rs. 5 lakh cash prize and a certificate**.

## 1.7 APPOINTMENTS

### CM of Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** leader **Champai Soren** took oath as the **twelfth Chief Minister of Jharkhand**.
- He is known as "**Jharkhand's tiger**," for playing a crucial role in the fight for the creation of a separate **Jharkhand state in the 1990s**.

recommending a formula for sharing **divisible pool of taxes between the Centre and States** for the **five-year period beginning April 2026**.

- It was chaired by former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Arvind Panagariya**.
- The panel has to submit recommendations by **October 31, 2025**.

### Panel on simultaneous polls

- Union Law Minister **Arjun Meghwal** informed the **Lok Sabha** that **no specific time limit** had been provided for the high-level committee on simultaneous polls.
- The Panel was formed under the former President **Ram Nath Kovind** to submit the **report on one nation, one election**.

### Chairperson of the Lokpal

- **Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** was recently appointed as the **new Chairperson** of the **Lokpal**.
- **Appointments in Lokpal** are made by the **President** on recommendation of a **five-member** selection committee
  - Prime Minister (Head)
  - Chief Justice of India
  - Speaker of Lok Sabha
  - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
  - An eminent jurist

### 16th Finance Commission

- The 16th Finance Commission held its **first meeting in New Delhi** recently.
- The Finance Commission is tasked with

# 2. POLITICAL SCIENCE

## 2.1 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

### UPI in France

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was formally launched at the **Eiffel Tower in Paris**.
- This will enable the Indian tourists to buy tickets at **Eiffel Tower** through UPI.
- **NPCI International Payments (NIPL)** which is the international arm of **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the facility.

### Unified Payment Interface

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** announced that India launched **UPI services in Mauritius and Sri Lanka** and also **RuPay card services in Mauritius**.
- This will boost digital transformation, promote tourism and strengthen bilateral economies ties with both countries

### India - UAE

- **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed eight pacts including a bilateral investment treaty and a framework deal on **India Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)** to foster regional connectivity during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to UAE.
- Currently, **bilateral trade** between the **two countries** stands at **\$85 million**.

### India - Nepal

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)** signed an agreement to integrate fast payment systems of India and Nepal through **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** of India and **National Payments Interface (NPI)** of Nepal, respectively.
- The integration is aimed at facilitating cross border remittances between **India and Nepal**.

## 2.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Bill was introduced in the **Lok Sabha** to provide reservation to **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in panchayats and municipal bodies in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The number of seats reserved for OBCs will be decided by a commission that will be formed after the legislation is passed by Parliament.

### Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- The Bill was passed in the **Lok Sabha** to check malpractices and organised cheating in government recruitment exams.
- The Bill aims to prevent unfair means in order to **bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system**.
- The Bill proposes a **minimum of three years imprisonment** and a **fine up to ₹1 crore**.

## Rajya Sabha passes Bills to add PVTGs

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024** and **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024**.
- The Bill was passed to add **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in Scheduled Tribe lists.
- The total number of PVTGs is 75.

## Parliament Passes Three Bills on Jammu and Kashmir

- The Parliament passed the Bills that added the Paddari Tribe, Gadda Brahmin, and Koli communities to the **Scheduled Tribes (ST) list**.
- **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024** was passed to add the **Valmiki community (including synonyms)** to the Scheduled Castes list of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024** which seeks to provide reservation to **Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities** in Jammu and Kashmir was passed.

## Electoral bonds scheme struck down

- A **five-judge Bench** headed by the **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** struck down the the electoral bonds scheme as **"unconstitutional"**.
- The court held that the preceding amendments made to the **Representation of the People Act, the Companies Act, and the Income Tax Act**, violated the voters' **right to information** about political funding **under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution**.

## Key Highlights

- Issuance of electoral bonds to be stopped
- **SBI** to submit full details of bonds purchased

by donors and subsequently encashed by political parties since **April 12, 2019** to the **Election Commission of India** by **March 6, 2024**.

- **ECI** to publish the entire information given by **SBI** on its website by **March 13, 2024**

## Law to register NRI marriages

- The **Law Commission** has submitted a report regarding the **NRI Marriages** to the Union government recently.

## Key Recommendations

- The report recommends a comprehensive law to register marriages of **non-resident Indians (NRIs)** to deal with situations arising out of "fraudulent marriages".
- It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India.
- **Chairman of the Law Commission** is **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**.

## Draft guidelines for Coaching Centres

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has released draft guidelines for the **"Prevention of misleading advertisement in coaching sector"** recently.
- The guidelines note such misleading advertisements as offences under the **Consumer Protection Act**.
- Earlier, the **CCPA** had formed a sub-committee to draft the guidelines.

## Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022

- The Union government has recently amended the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022**
- The amendment notified that both gametes need not come from a married couple in case they are certified as suffering from a medical condition.
- The amendment also notified that **single women (widow or divorcee)** undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures

### Three new criminal laws

- According to a notification released by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** the **three new criminal laws** that were passed by Parliament in **2023** will come into effect from **July 1, 2024**.
- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** that will replace the **Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, respectively, received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on **December 25, 2023**.
- The laws aim to overhaul the criminal justice system.

## 2.3 GOVT – WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

### One Stop Centres

- Union Minister Smriti Irani stated that **One Stop Centres** have been established in over **700 districts** across the country and around **8.3 lakh women** have received help through them.
- The **One Stop Centre** is a **scheme** of the **Women and Child Development Ministry** and is set up under the **Nirbhaya Fund**.
- The scheme aims to **support and assist women facing violence in public and private spaces**, including **domestic violence**.

### Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

- **Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana** is set to be launched as part of a renewed thrust to increase adoption of **household rooftop solar systems (hRTS)**.
- The Centre would bear the entire cost of setting up such systems for households that consume **less than 300 units of electricity a month**.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the "**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)**".
- It is a **Central Sector Sub-scheme** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada**.
- **PM-MKSSY** aims to **formalize the fisheries sector** and support fisheries micro and small enterprises.

### Initiatives under PMFBY

- **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda** launched three initiatives under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**. They are
- **Kisan Rakshak Helpline and Portal**
- **SARTHI Portal** : A digital insurance platform
- **Learning Management System (LMS) Platform** for the farming community.

### Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Scheme

- **Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Scheme** which is a **Hygiene and sanitation rating system** for the hospitality sector is yet to take off in states.
- The ranking scheme was launched in **November 2023** by the **Union Tourism Ministry** in collaboration with the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- The scheme aims to ensure world-class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays

### SWATI Portal

- The **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)** launched the **SWATI Portal** recently.
- **SWATI** stands for **Science for Women-A Technology and Innovation**.
- It aims to create a **single online portal** representing **Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine)**.



**Amrit Bharat stations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **554 Amrit Bharat stations** across **27 States** and inaugurated rail overbridges and underbridges under **Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme (ABSS)**.
- **Objective** - To revamp key railway stations across the country.
- The scheme envisages to take-up **1275 stations for upgradation/modernisation over Indian Railway**.

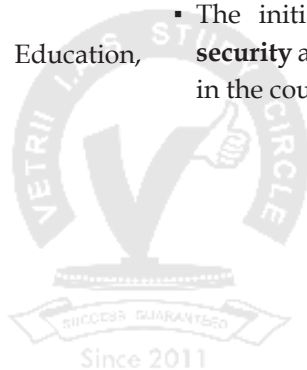
**SWAYAM Plus Platform**

- The **Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **'SWAYAM Plus' platform**.
- It is funded by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education.

- IIT Madras - Nodal agency for implementing SWAYAM Plus.
- It was launched in collaboration with leading industry players to bring employability and professional development focussed programmes to its learners.

**World's Largest Grain Storage Plan**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan'** in cooperative sector.
- It covers **11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** in 11 States.
- Under this initiative, foundation stone was laid for additional **500 PACS** across the country for construction of godowns and other agri-infrastructure.
- The initiative is aimed at **fortifying food security** and **fostering economic development** in the country.





## 3. GEOGRAPHY

### 3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

#### New Ramsar sites

- India has recently added 5 Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) taking the total number to 80 from existing 75.
- The five wetlands include,
  - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
  - Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Karnataka
  - Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu
  - Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Karnataka
  - Aghanashini Estuary, Karnataka
- Longwood Shola covers 116.07 hectares. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
- Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary covers 453.7 hectares. It is also an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
- With the new addition the total number of wetlands in Tamil Nadu become 16 which is the highest in the country.

#### 18th wildlife sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently notified Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State.
- The sanctuary stretches across 80,114.80 hectares of the reserve forests in Bargur Hills in Erode district.
- The sanctuary links the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve with the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The area has already been identified as a Tiger corridor by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

#### Patna Declaration

- The Government of Bihar presented the 'Patna Declaration' at a three-day international workshop held at Patna recently.
- It aims to prevent illegal hunting of wild and migratory birds and recommend measures to strengthen their conservation efforts in countries along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

#### Wetland bird census

- According to the Synchronised Wetland Bird Census for the year 2024 there are 6,80,028 wetland birds in Tamil Nadu.
- It is estimated that there are 5,36,245 water birds (79 percent) and 1,43,783 terrestrial birds (21 percent) of the total bird population.

#### Artificial Intelligence monitoring System

- Tamil Nadu launches India's first Artificial Intelligence Surveillance System to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks.
- The alert mechanism has been divided into 'three zones' - Red, Orange, and Yellow which is based on the projected distance between the track and elephant

#### New Biodiversity Heritage Site

- Gupteswar forest in Koraput district has been declared as Odisha's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) recently.
- BHS is declared under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.



**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**

- The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was concluded in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The State of Migratory Species Report 2024 was released in the summit.
- Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC) was launched to protect and connect natural areas of migratory species.
- One Health Central India Project was launched to address the concerns about zoonotic diseases.





# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 RECENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

### 100% FDI in space sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet approved the amendments to the existing **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on space sector** by allowing **100% FDI in space sector**.

- The amendment is made in line with the vision and strategy under the **Indian Space Policy 2023**.

## 4.2 REPORTS AND INDICES

### 22nd Law Commission Report

- The **Law Commission** submitted its report to the Law Ministry recently.
- It has recommended that **criminal defamation** should be retained within the **scheme of criminal laws** in India.

### Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 (CPI)

- India ranked **93 out of 180 countries** in the **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** for 2023.
- **Corruption Perceptions Index 2023** has been released by the **NGO Transparency International**.

### AISHE 2021-22

- According to the latest report of the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** released by the **Ministry of Education**.

#### Key Highlights

- In **2021-22**, the **overall gross enrolment ratio (GER)** in higher education for the age group **18-23 years** increased to **28.4%**, **from 27.3% in 2020-21** and **23.7% in 2014-15**, the **base year**.
- The overall female enrolment increased to **2.07 crore in 2021-22**.
- **Tamil Nadu** consistently maintains the highest **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** in higher

education for five academic years between **2017-18 and 2021-22**.

### All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey

- The summary of the findings of the **All-India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** carried out between **August 2022 and July 2023** was released by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** recently.

- The survey is carried out **every five years**.
- The survey aims at generating estimates of household **Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)**

#### Key Findings

- The average **monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE)** in Indian households rose by **33.5%** since **2011-12** in urban households.
- The Proportion of spending on food has dropped to **46.4%** for rural households from **52.9% in 2011-12**

#### Note

- **NSSO** functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

## 4.3 PUBLIC FINANCE

### Interim Budget

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her sixth Union Budget and her first interim Budget recently.
- Tamil Nadu would receive ₹44,760.83 crore as its share of Central taxes as per the Interim Budget.
- The total expenditure is estimated at ₹47.66 lakh crore.
- Top Three Ministries**
  - Defence Ministry - ₹6.21 lakh crore
  - Road Transport & Highways - ₹2.78 lakh crore
  - Railways - ₹2.55 lakh crore.



### Key Announcements

- Social Sector:** Interim Budget allocates ₹86,000 crore (increased) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
  - Focus on four vulnerable sections of society — the poor, the youth, farmers, and women.
  - A highpowered committee will be constituted to consider the challenges arising from fast population growth and demographic changes.
- Agricultural Sector:** The allocation for the Agriculture Ministry is ₹1,17,528.79 crore (increased)
  - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - ₹13,625 crore
  - PM Kisan Samman Nidhi - ₹60,000 crore (same as last Budget)
  - Fertilizer Department - ₹1,64,150.81 crore (decreased)
- Education Sector:** Both Higher Education and School Education received an increased budgetary allocation in the Interim Budget.



- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) - ₹12,467.39 crore.
- PM SHRI - ₹6,050 crore
- Subsidies**
  - Food subsidy:** Allocation was increased.
    - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) - ₹2,05,250
    - Sugar Subsidy under Public Distribution System - ₹1 lakh crore
- Tax:** Tax demands of up to ₹25,000 pertaining to the period till FY 2009/10, and up to ₹10,000 for FY 2011 to 2015 will be withdrawn.
- Health Sector :** 10,000 crore allocated
  - AB-PMJAY: Health cover under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will be extended to all Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and anganwadi workers and helpers.
  - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls in the 9-14 years age group for prevention of cervical cancer.
  - Anganwadi centres would be upgraded under 'Saksham Anganwadi'.
  - Poshan 2.0 : It would be expedited to improve nutrition delivery and ensure early childhood care and development.
- Research and Development:**
  - A corpus of ₹1 lakh crore would be available on minimal or nil interest rates to encourage the private sector to invest in research and development in sunrise sectors.
  - National Quantum Mission - ₹,819 crore.
- Women**
  - Lakshpati Didi scheme: Target has been increased for the scheme which aims to train women self-help groups (SHGs) to



earn a sustainable income of **at least ₹1 lakh per annum** by setting up micro-enterprises within their villages.



- **Mission Shakti** - ₹3,145.97 crore

#### ▪ Energy

- **Rooftop Solar Programme (PM Suryodaya Yojana):** One crore households will be enabled to obtain up to **300 units** of free electricity every month.

#### ▪ Housing

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana PMAY-Rural :** Two crore more houses would be built.

#### ▪ Railways:

- The **Ministry of Railways** has been allocated ₹2.55 lakh crore for 2024-25.

- **Three major economic corridor programmes,**

- **Energy Economic Corridor** - Energy, mineral and cement corridor.



- **Rail Sagar** - Port Connectivity Corridor.
- **Amrit Chaturbhuj** - High traffic density corridors.

#### ▪ Airways

- **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)** has been slashed by **60%** when compared to last budget.

#### ▪ New Schemes Announced

- A **new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry** was announced to provide environment friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bioplastics, biopharmaceuticals and bioagriinputs.
- A scheme to help the sections of the **middle class living in rented houses or slums or chawls** and unauthorised colonies to buy or build houses was announced.



# 5. SCIENCE

## 5.1 LATEST INVENTIONS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### '10,000 genome' project completed

- The **Department of Bio-technology (DBT)** officially announced the completion of the **'10,000 genome' project**.
- It is an attempt to create a reference database of whole genome sequences from India.
- India **first** sequenced a **complete human genome in 2006**.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** and the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad** are coordinating the project.

### Three ISRO facilities

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **three facilities** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
  - **Trisonic Wind Tunnel** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
  - **Integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** - Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
  - **Semicryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET)** - ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

## 5.2 SPACE

### CE20 Cryogenic engine

- ISRO has accomplished a major milestone by successfully testing the **CE20 cryogenic engine** that powers the cryogenic stage of the **LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions**.
- **Gaganyaan Mission** aims to send a crew of **3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth.

### GSLV F-14 rocket

- The **GSLV-F14** carrying **INSAT-3DS** is scheduled for a launch from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- The satellite is aimed at augmenting weather forecasting, disaster management, and related meteorological services.
- The **GSLV-F14** is the **16th flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**, and the **10th flight** with the indigenous **cryo stage**.

- The **INSAT-3DS satellite** has a total mass of **2,275 kg**.
- It is equipped with **25 different diagnostic payloads including 6 Channel Imager**.

### Gaganyaan crew announced

- India announced the names of the four astronaut-designates for the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission**, planned for launch in 2025.
- The names of the **Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots** are
  - **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**
  - **Group Captain Ajit Krishnan**
  - **Group Captain Angad Pratap**
  - **Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla**
- **Gaganyaan programme** - Aims to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



## 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT

### Bharat Mobility Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered inaugural address at India's largest mobility exhibition - **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 in New Delhi.**
- He said that government initiatives such as **Rooftop Solar Scheme (PM - Suryodaya Yojana)** and **Clean Cooking Mission** would provide boost to the battery manufacturing industry and bring down the **cost of batteries for electric vehicle.**

### India's first Robotic Elephant

- **Kerala temple** become **India's first state** to induct **robotic elephant** for ritual duties
- The **Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala's Thrissur district** has become the **first** in the country to use a mechanical, life like elephant for temple rituals.

### India Energy Week 2024

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India Energy Week 2024 in Goa.**
- **India Energy Week 2024** is India's largest energy exhibition and conference bringing together the entire energy value chain to catalyze India's energy transition goals.
- India ranks **fourth** in the world in **Renewable Energy Installed Capacity.**
- India aims to achieve **Net Zero Emission** by 2070.

### Aadi Mahotsav 2024

- **Aadi Mahotsav 2024** is being organized in **New Delhi** to showcase rich diversity of India's tribal heritage.

- It is an annual **National Tribal Festival**, organized by **Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).**

### HEMS Initiative

- **Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** will be launched for the first time India in **Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.**
- The initiative aims to extend medical assistance and trauma care services to a wider population across the country using helicopters.
- It is launched under '**Sanjeevani**' project.

### 4 web portals unveiled for news publishers

- **Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** launched four online portals for news publishers.
- The four portals include,
  - **Press Sewa** - for registration of newspapers and periodicals
  - **NaViGate Bharat** - for videos on the entire gamut of the government's development-related and citizen welfare oriented measures.
  - The other portals are for registration of local cable operators and for an e-billing system.

### India's longest rail tunnel

- India's **longest rail tunnel** was opened in **Jammu on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link.**
- It is **12.77-km long.**
- It is known as **T-50** which runs between the **Khari-Sumber** section.



**First Private Ammunition Manufacture Facility**

- First two Private Ammunition Manufacture facilities for the manufacture of ammunition and missiles were opened by **Adani Defence and Aerospace in Kanpur**.
- The twin-facility complex, spread over 500 acres.

**India's longest cable-stayed bridge**

- India's longest cable-stayed bridge - **Sudarshan Setu** was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Gujarat**.
- The bridge is **2.32 kilometers** long.
- The bridge links **Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka**.

**India's First indigenous hydrogen ferry**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's First indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat.

- It was launched under the **Harit Nauka** initiative in **Thoothukudi**.

- **Harit Nauka Guidelines** aims to embrace low/zero emission sources of fuel and attain 100% green vessels in the Indian waters by **2047**.

- The vessel has been built at the **Cochin Shipyard**.

**India Digital Summit (IDS) 2024**

- The 18th edition of the **India Digital Summit** is held in **Mumbai**.
- The **India Digital Summit (IDS)** is the flagship annual conference of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.
- IMAI is a **not-for-profit industry body** established in **2004**.





# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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## **Abu Dhabi's First Hindu stone temple**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Abu Dhabi's First Hindu stone temple - Swami Narayana Temple**
- The temple was built by the organisation - **Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)**
- The temple is built on a **27-acre site in Abu Mreikhah, Abu Dhabi.**

## **First Woman Chief Minister in Pakistan**

- Maryam Nawaz became the **Pakistan's First-ever woman Chief Minister in Eastern Punjab province.**
- She is the eldest daughter of Pakistan's former **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.**





## 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS

### **Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Sevai scheme launched**

- State health minister Ma Subramanian launched the 'Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Sevai' scheme at Thollavilai Primary Health Centre in Nagercoil.
- The scheme would support the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' (Doorstep Healthcare Scheme) scheme by bringing the facilities of diagnostic labs to the public.

### **'KaniTamil 24' conference**

- International Tamil Computing Conference 2024 (KaniTamil 24) was inaugurated at Nandambakkam Trade Centre, Chennai.
- Tamil is one of the oldest languages of the world and a language full of characteristics to adapt itself to the changing times and is aimed at strengthening the place of Tamil languages in this growing age of Technology.

### **Road accidents see an upward trend in TN**

- According to the data from the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) a total of 18,074 persons died in 66,841 road accidents reported in 2023 in Tamil Nadu.
- In terms of the total number of accidents in 2023,
  - Chennai and Coimbatore cities are at the top with 3,642 accidents each.
  - Chengalpattu followed with 3,387 accidents.

### **T.N. notifies land pooling scheme rules**

- The Tamil Nadu government has recently notified the Tamil Nadu Land Pooling Area Development Scheme Rules, 2024.

- Tamil Nadu Land Pooling Area Development Scheme provides for pooling together land owned by individual or individuals and developing it by the appropriate planning authority.

### **Pudhumai Penn Thittam**

- The Governor's policy address which was written by the Tamil Nadu government highlights that 2.73 lakh girl students are benefiting every month under the Pudhumai Penn scheme in 2023-24.
- As a result of this initiative there has been an increase of 34 percent in the enrolment of girl students from government schools into colleges during 2023-24.
- The scheme aims to provide a monthly cash assistance of ₹1,000 to all girl students pursuing higher education, who have completed their studies in government-run schools from Class 6 to 12.

### **Two Resolutions passed**

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted two resolutions against the 'One nation, One Election' proposal and the proposed delimitation after 2026.
- Reasons for the resolution include,
  - 'One Nation, One Election' policy is impractical, and goes against the fundamentals of the Constitution.
- The delimitation proposed after 2026 would reduce the representation of the southern States, especially Tamil Nadu

### **T.N. increases allocation for meals under ICDS by ₹41 cr**

- The Tamil Nadu government increased the financial allocation by **₹41.14 crore a year** for providing meals to children **aged 2 to 6**, under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.
- The additional expenditure would benefit over **11.50 lakh children**.

### **Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme**

- TN government allocated **₹100 crore** for the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme run by the **School Education Department**.
- The additional funds have been allocated towards orientation, learning materials and incentivisation of volunteers for the scheme.
- The scheme was introduced in **2021** which is aimed at bridging learning gaps or losses the children would have experienced during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

### **Kalaingar Sports Kit scheme**

- **Sports Development and Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin** announced that the State government will launch an initiative called the 'Kalaingar Sports Kit' in **Tiruchi** on **February 7**.
- Under the initiative, the **sports equipment** will be distributed in **12,000 village panchayats** to mark former **Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi's birth centenary**.

### **The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023**

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently adopted the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2023** recently.
- The Bill aims to further amend the **Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994**, for fixing the tenure of the **State Election Commissioner** to **"five/six year or sixty-five years of age, whichever is earlier, without any provision for extension"**

### **First Mini-TIDEL Park**

- TN Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** inaugurated **Tamil Nadu's First Mini-TIDEL Park in Villupuram**.
- It covers an area of **63,000 square feet** on a five-acre land parcel at **Thiruchitrabalam** in **Vanur taluk**.
- **Mini-TIDEL Parks** are being established in **Tier II and Tier III towns** like **Thanjavur, Salem, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Karaikudi, Namakkal, Tiruppur, and Udhamandalam**.

### **Maghizhchi Programme**

- **Maghizhchi Programme** was launched recently by the **Director General of Police Shankar Jiwai in Madurai**.
- It is a **mental well-being programme** for police personnel and their families.
- The programme aims at providing treatment to police personnel who were addicted to alcohol and suffered from mental depression.

### **Sale of cotton candy banned**

- Sale of cotton candy banned in Tamil Nadu after samples reveal presence of industrial dye
- **Rhodamine-B**.
- It was found that **Rhodamine-B** was used as a colouring agent in cotton candies.

### **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024**

- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** unveiled the **Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024** recently.
- **Vision** - To ensure social justice for all and provide women access to their rightful entitlements.
- **Objective**
  - To establish a gender sensitive education system and reduce the dropout rate among girls.
  - To improve health and nutrition status of adolescent girls and women.
  - To increasing their participation in the workplace.

- To promote digital literacy to bridge the digital gender gap.
  - To support women for remunerative placements.
  - To encourage participation of women in politics.
- A **high-level women empowerment committee** headed by the **Chief Secretary** shall meet once in six months to review the implementation of the policy.
  - The policy is valid for 10 years from the date of its notification or till a new policy is formulated.
- **Theme of the conference** : "Inform the present. Innovate the future"
  - The first phase of the state government's free Wi-Fi hotspots scheme in Chennai was launched during the conference

### Extension of Vidiyal Payanam

- The **Free Bus Travel Scheme** for women in Tamil Nadu famously known as "**Vidiyal Payanam**" was extended recently.
- The extension of the scheme in the **Ghats section** was launched in **Udhagamandalam**.
- It would be implemented in other hilly areas later.

### Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority

- The Bill to establish **Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA)** was passed in the ongoing Budget session.
- It is a **statutory body** to implement **road infrastructure projects** in Tamil Nadu.
- TNSHA will be formed on the lines of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to **maintain and manage roads as per global standards**.

### Umagine 2024

- TN CM MK Stalin inaugurated the **two-day conference - Umagine TN 2024** in Chennai.
- The conference was hosted by the **Tamil Nadu government's IT and Digital Services Department**.

### Report on Keeladi excavation

- The Centre told the **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** that the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** will publish the report on the first two phases of Keeladi archaeological excavations in **Sivaganga district**.
- **Mr. Ramakrishna** had led the **first two phases** of the excavations in Keeladi between 2014 and 2016.
- There were no significant findings in Phase III of the excavations.
- The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** carried out the excavations from the **fourth phase** and so far **nine phases** had been completed.

## TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

### TN BUDGET 2024 - 25

- Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the State Budget for 2024-25.
- Theme: 'Crossing obstacles and marching towards growth'
- Grand 7 Tamil dreams mentioned which includes,
  - Social Justice
  - Welfare of the Marginalized
  - Transforming Tamil youth as global achievers
  - Knowledge based economy
  - Equality focussed on welfare of women
  - Green Growth and Sustainable future
  - Tamil Language and culture.
- For 2024-25, the State has estimated its capital expenditure to be ₹47,681 crore, which is a growth of 12.11% over the revised estimates 2023-24.
- Top Three Sectoral Allocation
  - Education Department – 52,254 crores
  - Urban Development – 41,733 crores
  - Rural Development – 27,922 crores.
- Excavation at 8 locations
  - Keeladi - Sivaganga
  - Vembakottai - Virudhunagar
  - Porpanai Kottai - Pudukkottai
  - Keezhamandi - Tiruvannamalai district.
  - Thirumalapuram - Tenkasi
  - Kongalnagaram – Tiruppur
  - Marungur - Cuddalore
  - Chennanur - Krishnagiri
- Excavation in Other States
  - Muziris – Kerala
  - Palur - Odisha
  - Vengi - Andhra Pradesh
  - Muski - Karnataka
- Deep sea excavations
  - Korkai and Alagankulam

### Rural development

- Kalaingarani Kanavu Illam Scheme
- Aim - To create a 'hut-free Tamil Nadu' by 2030

### Key Highlights

#### Development of Tamil language

- Translation of Twin Epics
- Tharani Engum Tamil  
Translated Tamil books will be available in world's top 100 universities and libraries.
- Kani Tamil 24  
Fund for Startups for developing new technologies in Tamil Translation.
- Digitization of rare books and documents in Tamil Language.
- Ethnographic documentation of tribal linguistic resources.
- Culture
  - Open-air museum at the Keeladi excavation site.

- Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme (TNRIS)
- Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam -II (AGAMT-II)
- 2000 New Overhead Water tanks.
- Initiative to restore 5000 water bodies.

### Poverty Eradication

- Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme
  - Aim - To bring around five lakh of the poorest families out of poverty within two years.

### Municipal administration and water supply department

- Singara Chennai 2.0



- Chennai Theevu Thidal Development Scheme
- Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam.
- **Rivers Restoration Project**
  - Cauvery - Erode, Trichy
  - Noyal - Coimbatore, Tirupur
  - Vaigai - Madurai
  - Porunai - Paddy
- **Urban Green Project**
  - Sea Water Desalination Plant – Nemmeli

### Women Welfare

- Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.
- **Vidiyal Payanam Thittam** – Rs 3,050 crore has been provided as subsidy for this scheme.
- Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Puthumai Penn Thittam would be extended to girl students in Tamil medium government-aided schools as well from the next academic year.
- Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme 30,992 schools – 15 lakh people
- Thozhi - Women Hostels. Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai

### Vulnerabale Sections

- **Transgender Welfare**
  - The Transgender Welfare Board - ₹2 crore allotted for free educational expenses, including tuition and hostel fees of transgender students in pursuing higher education
- **Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development**
  - Poonjolai - Model Home for Children Coimbatore
- **'Tholkudi' scheme**
  - **Aim** - To upgrade the amenities in tribal habitations and improve the living standards of tribals.

### School Education

- Prof. Anbazhagan School Development Scheme

- 15,000 Smart Classrooms
- 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme

### Higher Education

- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College Development Scheme.
- Upgrading 45 Polytechnic Colleges to Industry 4.0 Standards.
- Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarnar Library & Science Centre – Coimbatore.
- **Naan Mudhalvan Scheme** – 28 lakh people benefittedx
  - Free training programme under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme for six months to prepare for Central Government Jobs
  - Tamizh Pudhalvan Scheme
  - **Aim** – To provide a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to boys who have studied in government schools from Classes VI to XII.

### Sports

- **Four olympic academies** - Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Nilgiris.
- Chief Minister Youth Festival
- India's first Tamil Nadu Olympic Water Sports Academy – Ramanathapuram.
- Six sports centres exclusively for para - sportspersons will be set up.

### Labor welfare

- 10 New Government Industrial Training Institutes
- Centres of Excellence

### Medicine and population well-being

- Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam
- Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kaakum 48
- Cancer Management Mission
- Centre of Excellence for persons with autism spectrum disorder.

### Industrial Development

- SIPCOT Park – Thanjavur

- **New Space Industrial and Propellant Park - Thoothukudi**
- **10 mini-textile parks - Erode, Karur and Virudhunagar**
- **Neo TIDEL park at 5 locations.**
- **IT Park - Coimbatore**

### Knowledge Based Economy

- **Kalaigiar international convention centre- Muttukkadu, Chennai**
- **Global Start-up Summit - To be held for the first time in Chennai.**
- **Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission - Under State Chief Minister.**
- **Free Wi-Fi will be provided at 1,000 prime locations including Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi and Salem.**

### Environment

- **TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)**
- **Aim - To restore coastal resources spanning 1,076 km across 14 districts.**
- **Development of beaches in Tamil Nadu - Blue Flag Beach Certification.**
  - Marina - Chennai
  - Ariyaman - Ramanathapuram
  - Kayalpattinam - Thoothukudi
  - Kodavilai - Tirunelveli
  - Kameswaram - Nagapattinam
  - Kattumavadi - Pudukottai
  - Silver beach - Cuddalore
  - Marakkanam - Villupuram

## AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2024 - 25

### AGRICULTURE BUDGET 2024 - 25

- **Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare MRK. Panneerselvam recently presented the 4th Exclusive Agriculture Budget for 2024-25 at the Legislative Assembly.**
- **A total sum of ₹42,281 crore has been allocated for agriculture and related departments during 2024-25.**
- **Agriculture Budget was first presented by the Tamil Nadu Government in 2021-22.**

### Key Highlights

- **Chief Minister's Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaathu Mannuyir (மண்ணுயிர்) Kaappom Scheme (CM MK MKS).**
  - **Aim - To improve soil quality, and move towards sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of society.**
  - **It will be implemented from the year 2024-2025 for which Rs.206 crore will be allocated.**

### One model Organic Farm

- **Aim - To promote the concept of Organic Farming.**

- **Sustainable Green Cover Mission - Under the scheme 1.96 crore tree saplings were distributed to 72,597 farmers at a cost of Rs.24.85 crore.**

- **'Honey Production Hub' will be established in Kanyakumari district with a budget of Rs.3.60 crore.**

- **100 Uzhavar Angadis will be established in urban areas along the lines of Uzhavar Sandhais at an outlay of Rs. 5 crore.**

- **The Kalaigiarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme.**

- **Aim - To transform every village into a model of self-sufficiency.**

### Pulses Development Scheme

- **To attain self sufficiency in pulses, the scheme will be implemented during 2024-2025 in an area of 4.75 lakh acres at an outlay of Rs.40.27 crore**

### ▪ Edible Oilseeds Production Enhancement Scheme

- It will be implemented in all the districts of Tamil Nadu covering an area of 2.50 lakh acre at an outlay of Rs.45 crore.

### ▪ Scheme for Incentivising Enhanced Crop Productivity

- **Aim** - To enhance the productivity of food grains, coconut, sugarcane, cotton, and sunflower, to position Tamil Nadu as one of the top three states in terms of productivity.

### ▪ One Village One Crop - Demonstration

- It will be introduced in 15,280 revenue villages to catapult production in rural areas.

### ▪ Tamil Nadu Millet Mission

- It will be implemented for five years from 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 in the two millet special zones.

### ▪ Village Agriculture Development Group

- Under the scheme, village development groups will be formed to offer training within the village panchayats.

### ▪ Cotton Cultivation Mission

- To enhance the income of cotton farmers.

### ▪ Special Scheme for Mukkani Development

- **Aim** - To boost the cultivation of mango, jackfruit, and banana in the State during 2024-25.

### ▪ Establishment of New State Horticulture Farm and Parks

- **Mullai Garden** - Velimalai, Kanyakumari.
- **Marutham Park** - Thirumalai Samuthiram
- **Sun Garden** - Kanyakumari
- **Hibiscus Nursery Garden** - Attur, Chengalpattu
- **State Horticulture Farm** - Naduvakurichi
- **Jackfruit Value Addition Centre** - Panruti, Cuddalore District.

### • Technology cum Market Promotion Centre - Perambalur.

### ▪ GI Tags

- In 2024-2025, Geographical Indication tag will be obtained for the following 10 Agricultural Products at the cost of Rs.30 lakh.

- Sathayamangalam Red Banana (Erode)
- Kolli Hills Pepper (Namakkal)
- Meenambur Seeraga Samba (Ranipet)
- Ayyampalayam Nettai Thennai (Dindigul)
- Urigam Puli (Krishnagiri)
- Bhuvanagiri Mithi Pagarkai (Cuddalore)
- Senchulam (Salem, Karur)
- Tirunelveli senna Leaf (Tirunelveli)
- Odaipatti Seedless Grapes (Theni)
- Gloriosa Superba (Senkanthal seed-Karur, Dindigul, Tiruppur)

- The name of **Department of Seed Certification and Organic Certification** in Tamil i.e., விதச்சான்று மற்றும் அங்ககச் சான்றுத்துறை will be renamed as விதச்சான்றளிப்பு மற்றும் உயிர்மச் சான்றளிப்புத்துறை".

- Research programmes to develop **new varieties in tuberose, chrysanthemum and rose** with improved productivity and profitability through new genetical methods will be carried out.

### ▪ Rural Development

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

### ▪ Revenue and Disaster Management

- The **Catalytic Assistance for Drought Mitigation programme** will be implemented from 2024-2025 in 110

Villages of 55 Blocks in seven districts namely Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi at an estimated cost of Rs.110.59 crore.

• **“Digital Azmoish (Digital Crop Survey)**

- i. **Aim** - To enumerate crops cultivated in Agricultural lands.

- ii. By using the data captured in Digital Azmoish, e-Adangal will be issued online to the farmers from the year 2024-2025 onwards.

▪ **Development of Palm Products**

- **Palmyra Development Mission** - The Government has been implementing the Palm Development Mission for the last three years to increase the number of palm trees.

