# VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

## **AUGUST 2025**



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# Preface



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Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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

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

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

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# SCIENCE

#### **GENERAL SCIENCE**

#### Nihonium

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

## Hemophilia

- It is a genetic bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency in clotting factor VIII (blood-clotting protein), which is necessary for blood clotting.
- It is a sex-linked disorder determined by the X and Y chromosomes.
- The gene for hemophilia is found on the X chromosome.
- Hemophilia is much more common in males than in females.

#### Treatment

- It includes replacement therapy, where clotting factor concentrates are infused into the bloodstream to assist blood clotting.
- Other treatments may involve medications to encourage clotting or surgery to mend bleeding-related damage.
- World Haemophilia day is celebrated on 17th April every year, aiming to increase awareness about hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day is celebrated in the honor of Frank Schnabel, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF).

## **Solar System**

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

#### **Rabies**

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

## Japanese Encephalitis

- It is a potentially severe viral zoonotic disease caused by the Japanese Encephalitis(B) virus.
- The virus is transmitted from animals particularly pigs and birds belonging to the Ardeidae family, such as cattle egrets, pond herons, etc. - to humans by the Culex mosquito of the Vishnui group.
- There is no human-to-human transmission of the virus.
- Vaccination is the most effective prevention strategy, particularly in endemic regions.
- Early diagnosis and supportive treatment can help manage symptoms, but there is no specific antiviral treatment for Japanese Encephalitis.
- the central According to government guidelines, two doses of the vaccine have been a part of the Universal Immunisation Programme since 2013.
- Since 2007, the IE vaccination programme is being implemented in 15 endemic revenue 201 childbirth, or from contaminated surfaces. districts in Tamil Nadu.
- In Tamil Nadu, the program to provide Japanese brain fever vaccination to children up to 15 years of age and adolescents has been extended to 7 more districts.

#### **H5N1 Bird Flu**

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

#### **About H5N1 Bird Flu**

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

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

#### Pneumonia

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

#### Vaccine

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

#### Diseases Burden

• Global: Together, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan account for more than half of all deaths due to pneumonia among children under 5.

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

## **Primary Amoembic Meningoencephalitis** (PAM)

- Context: Two more persons in Kozhikode district of Kerala have been diagnosed with primary amoebic meningoencephalitis.
- PAM is caused by Naegleria fowleri, an amoeba that thrives in warm freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers and poorly maintained swimming pools.
- This free-living microorganism primarily feeds on bacteria but can become pathogenic in humans.
- This one-celled organism can infect the brain and destroy the tissues, also called 'braineating amoeba'.
- These rare infections are fatal, with 97% mortality. Most people die within one to 18 days.
- PAM does not spread from person to person.
- The amoeba enters the body through the nose and reaches up to the brain to infect it.

## Phoenix roxburghii

- Recently, researchers have identified new palm species and named it as Phoenix roxburghii.
- It is a new palm species named after William Roxburgh, considered the father of Indian Botany.
- Distribution: It is found on India's eastern coast and Bangladesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Pakistan.

#### Green Ammonia

- Ammonia (NH3) is a nitrogen and hydrogen based chemical compound widely used in the production of fertilisers and industrial chemicals.
- Ammonia is currently produced from natural gas and, in its production process, emits 2 tonnes of CO, for every tonne of ammonia.
- For this reason, conventional ammonia is referred to as grey ammonia.
- Green ammonia, on the other hand, does not emit CO, in its production process.
- Uses of Ammonia: Essential for nitrogen in fertilizers, raw material for chemicals (nitric acid, fibres, explosives, dyes, pharmaceuticals), and as a fuel for engines and power generation.

## **Epilepsy**

- About: Epilepsy is a chronic brain disorder caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain, leading to seizures – brief episodes of involuntary movement and loss of consciousness.
- It is recognised by the WHO as a neurological disorder.
- **Causes:** The disease has no identifiable cause in nearly 50% of the cases. However, it is linked to genetics, brain injuries, infections, stroke, tumors.
- convulsions and twitching Symptoms: movements.

#### **Treatment:**

 First-line treatment for epilepsy includes antiseizure medications, while a ketogenic diet (high-fat) is effective for drug-resistant cases.

 Surgical options include removing seizureaffected brain regions or corpus callosotomy to prevent seizure spread.

#### **MakeGPT**

- MakeGPT, an AI-powered platform that enables creation of Internet of Things (IoT) systems using natural language prompts, at the IIT Madras Research Park
- It is a product developed by Kochadai Technology Solutions, a start-up incubated within IIT Madras Research Park.

## Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine, commonly referred to as meth, is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.
- It takes the form of a white, odorless, bittertasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol.
- It was developed early in the 20th century from its parent drug, amphetamine, and was used originally in nasal decongestants and 201 bronchial inhalers.
- Like amphetamine, methamphetamine causes increased activity and talkativeness, decreased appetite, and a pleasurable sense of well-being or euphoria

## Diazotrophs

- Diazotrophs are a diverse group of bacterial and archaea that perform biological nitrogen fixation (BNF), converting atmospheric nitrogen (N□) into ammonia (NH□) which can be used by other organisms.
- This process is vital for the biosphere, contributing to the global nitrogen cycle and

supporting plant growth, particularly in marine ecosystems and agriculture

## Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

- It is a rare, typically fatal brain infection caused by the microscopic amoeba Naegleria fowleri.
- Infection occurs when contaminated warm, fresh water is inhaled, allowing the amoeba to enter the brain and cause rapid inflammation.
- Symptoms, including headache, fever, and stiff neck, progress quickly, leading to coma and death within days of the initial infection

## **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)**

- Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of India was first established in August 1948 under the Department of Scientific Research, with Dr. Homi J. Bhabha as its first chairman.
- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
   was formed under direct charge of the
   Prime Minister on August 3, 1954.since then atomic energy commission functioned under department of atomic energy.
- Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty was the current chairman Atomic Energy Commission

## **Pericarditis**

 Pericarditis is swelling and irritation of the thin, saclike tissue surrounding the heart. This tissue is called the pericardium. Pericarditis often causes sharp chest pain. The chest pain occurs when the irritated layers of the pericardium rub against each other. Pericarditis often is mild

## LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Four semiconductor plants

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

#### India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

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

## **Quantum Technology**

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

## International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- By end of 2025, ISA to set up 17 Centres of Excellence in different countries.
- Long-term plan: establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) ain India, envisioned as a "Silicon Valley for solar".

#### Centres of Excellence

- To provide testing, lab training, start-up ecosystem.
- Located in IIT-like universities.
- GCC in India will act as a hub connecting these centres.
- Number could expand from 17 to 50, as several countries seek India's support for capacitybuilding.

## About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Jointly announced by India and France in 2015 at the UN Paris Climate Change Conference (COP-21 of the UNFCCC).
- ISA Framework Agreement came into force in 2017.
- It is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization that is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative for increased deployment of solar energy 1 technologies.
- Membership: 119 Signatory members (100 ratified)
- It is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.

## **SPACE**

## ISRO targets 2027 launch for LVM3 semi-cryogenic stage

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

## About LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III)

- ISRO's most powerful three-stage rocket.
- First experimental flight in December 2014.

- Current payload capacity: 4200 kg to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit).
- The semi-cryogenic stage is designed to □ PixxelSpace India-led consortium selected to enhance payload capability while keeping costs down.
- Replaces L110 core stage (liquid propellant) with a semi-cryogenic stage.
- Semi-cryogenic engine as a "very complex one" that uses special materials to withstand high temperatures and oxidiser-rich combustion.
- Whereas the liquid-fuelled Vikas engine gives a nominal thrust of 80 tonnes, the SE2000 semicryogenic engine is designed to supply 200 tonnes.

## Three main types of satellite orbits

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

## Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)

- Altitude: 2,000-35,786 km
- Compromise between GEO and LEO systems
- Lower latency than GEO but still requires constellations

## Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

- Altitude: Below 2,000 km
- Advantages: Very low latency, smaller/ cheaper satellites
- Disadvantage: Small coverage area requiring mega-constellations

## India's First Private EO Satellite Constellation

- design, build, and operate India's first fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation.
- Project is under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, led by IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).
- Purpose and Applications: The satellite constellation will provide high-quality data and services (Analysis Ready Data and Value-Added Services) for various applications, including climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, marine surveillance, national security, and urban planning.
- Strategic Importance: A primary goal of this initiative is to reduce India's dependence on foreign sources for satellite data, thereby ensuring data sovereignty.

## Timeline for future space initiatives

- 2026: An uncrewed space mission with a robot named "Vyommitra."
- 2027: maiden The human spaceflight, "Gaganyaan."
- 2035: Establishment of India's own "Bharat Antariksh Station" (Indian Space Station).
- 2040: Indian astronaut is planned to land on the moon in 2040. This mission is envisioned as a symbol of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047.
- The space sector reforms initiated by Prime Minister in 2014, including opening the sector

to private players in 2020, have boosted India's space economy to \$8 billion and are projected to reach \$45 billion in the next decade.

## ISRO'S advanced heavy-lift rocket

- ISRO is developing a heavy-lift rocket, referred to as the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which will be as tall as a 40-storey building.
- This rocket is being designed to carry a massive payload of 75,000 kg (75 tonnes) into low Earth orbit (LEO), a significant leap from the 35 kg capacity of India's first indigenous rocket, the SLV-3.
- NGLV Features: The new heavy-lift rocket will also have a "recoverable first stage," a feature aimed at making space launches more costeffective.
- Currently, India has 55 satellites operational in space. This number will triple in the next 3 to 4 years.

#### **Future Missions of ISRO**

- TDS Technology Demonstration Satellite
- GSAT-7R satellite will assist Indian military communications
- GSAT-7 (Rukmini) a satellite specifically designed for the Indian Navy as a replacement for the communication satellite
- A Venus Orbiter Mission has also been approved and we shall be sending a spacecraft to study planet Venus.

## **Crew Dragon**

 Crew Dragon is a reusable spacecraft developed by SpaceX to transport astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) and to evacuate astronauts from space.

- The spacecraft Crew Dragon developed by SpaceX has successfully transported National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts to the International Space Station.
- SpaceX became the first private company to orbit human spaceflight, an achievement accomplished by the United States, Russia, and China.

## Soyuz Spacecraft

- Soyuz is a Russian spacecraft that transports people and materials to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Up to three people can travel in it.

## **Gaganyaan Project**

- The Gaganyaan mission is India's ongoing project that will send a mission with a 3-person crew to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) 400 km away for 3 days and bring them back safely to Earth.
- The first crewed spaceflight is expected to take place before 2026.
- The success of the Gaganyaan mission will place India in the ranks of countries (USA, Russia and China) with human spaceflight capability.

## Chandrayaan-1

- Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission, was successfully launched from Sriharikota on October 22, 2008.
- This spacecraft orbited the moon at a height of 100 km from the lunar surface and provided chemical, mineralogical and photo-geological mapping of the moon.

• This spacecraft carried a total of 11 scientific instruments developed in India and other countries.

## Chandrayaan-2

- The Chandrayaan-2 mission was successfully launched on July 22, 2019 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota via GSLV MkIII-M1.
- After successive Earth-bound maneuvers, the spacecraft entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory (LTT) on August 14.
- On August 20, the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) maneuver was performed, whereby Chandrayaan-2 was successfully inserted into an elliptical orbit around the moon.
- This was followed by successive lunar orbit maneuvers to reduce the orbit to a circular polar orbit around the moon.

## Chandrayaan-3

- · Chandrayaan-3, a follow-up mission to Chandrayaan-2, was successfully launched on LVM-3 on July 14, 2023 to demonstrate complete capability for safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- It consists of lander and rover configuration.
- It will be launched by LVM3 from Sriharikota.
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration to 100 km lunar orbit.

## India in Space Exploration

- Historical Background
- 1962: The Indian National Committee for Space Research was established under the leadership of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
- 1969: Renamed as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- 1963: First rocket launch from Thumba
- 1975: India's first satellite Aryabhatta was launched
- 1980: India's first indigenous satellite SLV-3 was successfully launched from Sriharikota under the leadership of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

#### • Future Plans:

- Chandrayaan-4 (2027): Mission to collect samples from the moon and bring them back to Earth
- Chandrayaan-5 (2028): Joint mission with Japan for 100-day lunar exploration

## **Model Indian Space Station (Bharatiya** Antariksh Station)

- The model of India's proposed space station was displayed at an event held on Friday at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, in commemoration of National Space Day.
- India plans to launch a part of this space station, named 'Bharatiya Space Station', into space in 2028.
- India plans to establish the complete space station weighing 52,000 kg by 2035.

## **Space Stations of Other Countries**

- For the first time, the Soviet Union (Russia) established the 'Salyut-7' space station in space in 1982. It remained operational until 1991.
- Secondly, the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada jointly established the International Space Station in 1998. It has been announced that this will remain operational until 2030.
- Thirdly, China established the 'Tiangong' space station in space in 2021, which is currently operational.

## ISRO's Legacy and Milestones

- 1962: Formation of INCOSPAR by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
- 1969: ISRO was established.
- 1975:Aryabhatta, India's first satellite, launched with Soviet help.
- 1980: Rohini Satellite launched by India's SLV-3.
- 1984: Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian in space.
- 1994: Launch of PSLV, ISRO's reliable satellite carrier.
- 2008: Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the Moon.
- 2013: Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) launched successfully on its first attempt.
- 2017: PSLV-C37 set a world record by launching 104 satellites in one go.
- 2019: Chandrayaan-2 orbiter continues to transmit data.
- 2022: Launch of SSLV for small satellites.
- 2023: Chandrayaan-3's South Pole landing.
- 2023: Aditya-L1 mission to study the Sun.
- 2024: ISRO expands collaboration with private space players.
- Gaganyaan: India's First Human Space Mission (Expected 2025)
- Establishing a permanent Indian space station by 2035.
- Sending Indian astronauts to the Moon by 2040.

## ISRO's Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1) for Gaganyaan

ISRO successfully conducted the first

- Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1) on August 24, 2025.
- Purpose: To test the parachute-based deceleration system of the Gaganyaan crew module under real-world conditions.
- It is a part of India's maiden human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, targeted for late 2025–26.

## Navigation with Indian Constellation (Navic)

- Context: ISRO's Navic (Navigation with Indian Constellation) system, also known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System
   (IRNSS), is facing issues with its satellite fleet.
- Covers ~1,500 km around India.
- Launched 9 satellites since 2013, but only 8 reached proper orbit.
- Last satellite (IRNSS-1I) launched in 2018.
- ISRO plans to launch at least three new satellites by the end of 2026 to replace the aging and impaired fleet.
- Purpose: Navic provides accurate location services to the military and civilian users within India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders. It is intended to be a backup system in case access to foreign constellations like the American GPS is denied.
- Other global navigation systems: GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), Beidou (China), Galileo (EU).

## Kulasekarapattinam

• The Kulasekarapattinam launch pad can launch rockets weighing up to 500 kg.

- A will be launched rocket from Kulasekarapattinam by the end of 2026. Kulasekarapattinam plays a very important (1) Technical Capabilities role in India's space history
- There are 2 launch pads in Sriharikota. Currently, work is underway to set up a third pad there at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore.
- The plan to send a robot to space is underway.

## Hyperspectral imaging satellites

 The successful launch of Pixxel's three hyperspectral imaging satellites by SpaceX represents a significant milestone for the Indian space startup ecosystem.

#### **Recent Launch**

- Pixxel successfully launched three more Firefly satellites on a SpaceX Falcon 9 mission, completing the first phase of its hyperspectral constellation Business StandardNews9live.
- This was accompanied by Dhruva Space's satellites, making it the first commercial flight of Dhruva's Polaris-30 (P-30) satellite bus 2011

Indian startups Dhruva, Pixxel satellites ride to space on Falcon 9 | Science News - News9live.

The information you shared about the technical specifications is accurate. Each Firefly satellite weighs around 50 kilograms and captures data in 135+ spectral bands at 5-meter resolution PixxelBusiness Standard, making them part of "the most advanced commercial hyperspectral imaging system ever deployed" Pixxel, Dhruva Space launch satellites on SpaceX Falcon-9 from California | World News - Business Standard.

#### **Future Constellation Plans**

 Pixxel plans to build a constellation of 18 to 24 satellites to achieve daily coverage of Earth with hyperspectral imagery Pixxel and Dhruva Space Launch Satellites on SpaceX Falcon 9 Entrepreneur, with applications across agriculture, mining, oil and gas, and environmental monitoring.

## GEOGRAPHY

#### **PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

#### **Alaknanda River**

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

#### About Alaknanda River

- It is a Himalayan river in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It is one of the two main headstreams of the Ganges River, the other being the Bhagirathi River.
- It originates from the meltwaters of the Satopanth and Bhagirath Kharak glaciers in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
- The river is joined by many tributaries in Uttarakhand.
- Five of the tributaries are considered major, and their points of confluence are also ward worshipped. The five holy confluences in the 20 Garhwal Himalayas are also known as Panch Prayag. They are listed below:
  - Vishnuprayag: Alaknanda meets
    Dhauliganga River
  - Nandprayag: Alaknanda meets Nandakini River
  - Karnaprayag: Alaknanda meets Pindar River
  - Rudraprayag: Alaknanda meets
     Mandakini River
  - Devprayag: Alaknanda meets Bhagirathi.
     This is the most revered confluence, as it is here when the surging water coming from the mountains is finally called the Ganga.

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

## Mahanadi River (860 km Length)

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

#### Cloudburst

 A cloudburst over the Kheer Ganga River (a tributary of Alaknanda River) led to flash floods in Uttarkashi district.

#### About cloudburst

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

#### **Urban Forest**

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

#### Significance of Urban Forest

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

#### Initiatives taken by government

- Nagar Van Udyan Program: To create 200 urban forests, involving local communities, schools, and organizations in their development and maintenance.
- School Nursery Yojana (SNY): To connect children with nature by involving them in growing saplings at school nurseries.
- Miyawaki Forest Plantation: To create dense, self-sustaining forests using native species, enhancing ecosystems and thriving in urban areas.
- Greening Guidelines: Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs requires cities to maintain a minimum of 12-18% green cover.

#### **Pamba River**

- The central government recently initiated steps to include the Pampa River under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a multi-crore initiative aimed at protecting major rivers in the country.
- It is the third longest river in the state of Kerala after the Periyar River and the Bharathappuzha River.
- Also called the 'Dakshina Bhageerathi' or the Ganga of Kerala, the significance of the river is associated with the Sabarimala temple.
- Pamba is also called Thriveni Sangam, as it is the meeting point for three rivers-Pamba, Achankovil & Manimala.

#### Subarnarekha River

- It originates at an altitude of 600 m near Nagri village in Ranchi district of Jharkhand.
- It flows for 395 km and empties into the Bay of Bengal.

- The Subarnarekha (meaning "golden line") flows eastwards through a copper mining area and exits the Chota Nagpur Plateau at the Hundrukbagh Falls.
- Tributaries: Its main tributaries are the Kanchi. Karkari and Karkai from the right.

#### **PVTGs**

- According to 2011 Census, 40 PVT groups were counted within the broader category of Scheduled Tribes (STs), Currently, there are 75 PVT groups across 18 states and one Union Territory.
- In 2023, the Centre launched the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) to provide basic facilities to PVTGs.

#### **PM JANMAN**

- Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan, is an initiative launched by the Indian government on November 15, 2023, to improve the socio-economic conditions of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across 18 states and one Union Territory.
- The mission focuses on providing basic drinking water, <sup>1</sup> facilities like housing, education, health, and connectivity, alongside creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through 11 key interventions implemented by nine ministries.

#### Godavari River

- It is India's second-longest river after the Ganga and the third-largest in India, drains about 10% of India's total geographical area.
- It is also called `Dakshina Ganga`, which translates into South Ganges River.

#### Course

- The origin of the Godavari River is in Brahmagiri Mountain at Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- It runs for a length of about 1,465 kilometers.
- It finally empties itself into the Bay of Bengal at Narasapuram in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The river mainstem travels through three states: Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Godavari basin receives its maximum rainfall during the Southwest monsoon.

#### **Tributaries**

 The principal tributaries of the river are the Pravara, the Purna, the Manjra, the Penganga, the Wardha, the Wainganga, the Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), the Indravati, the Maner, and the Sabri

#### ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

## Largest Asian tortoise reintroduced in Nagaland community reserve

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

## 'Microplastic' pollution

- The primary sources of microplastic pollution along the Indian coastline are riverine inputs 0 and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), via the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), conducted a study from 2022 to 2025.
  - West coast: 19 transects from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
  - East coast: 25 transects from Puri (Odisha) to Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)
- Microplastic Definition:
- Plastic particles sized 1 micrometre to 5 millimetres
- Primary microplastics: manufactured at that size
- Secondary microplastics: formed from breakdown of larger plastics.

## The Potential of Biochar in India

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

## **Byproducts & Energy Potential:**

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

#### Its potential extends to several sectors:

- Carbon Sequestration: Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100 to 1,000 years, acting as a long-term carbon sink.
- Agriculture: Applying biochar to soil can improve water retention, abate nitrous oxide emissions (which have 273 times the warming potential of CO2), enhance soil organic carbon, reduce fertilizer requirements by 10-20%, and increase crop yields by 10-25%.
- Wastewater Treatment: Biochar offers a lowcost and effective method to reduce pollution, with one kilogram capable of treating 200-500 liters of wastewater.
- Carbon Capture: Modified biochar can be used to adsorb CO2 from industrial exhaust gases, though its efficiency is currently lower than conventional methods.

## Great Barrier Reef has recorded its largest Coral Bleach

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

## **Coral Bleaching**

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

#### **Great Barrier Reef (GBR)**

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

## India has set an example in Lion conservation

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

## Operation Falcon

- Operation Falcon is a joint initiative by Assam Police and Forest Department, launched last year to combat rhino poaching.
- Assam has 2,895 rhinos (2022 census), mainly in Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve (2,613 rhinos).
- Orang National Part and Tiger Reserve, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve have 125, 107 and 50 rhinos, respectively.

## **AI-Based Animal Warning System**

- The Union government is planning to implement an AI-based early warning system across all railway lines passing through or near forests.
- The system aims to prevent wildlife deaths, including elephants, tigers, and other animals, caused by train collisions.
- The initiative is inspired by the successful AI system in Madukkarai, Tamil Nadu, which has enabled 2,800 safe elephant crossings with zero train collisions since February 2024.
- AI, radio collars, and satellite technology are being used to mitigate human-animal conflict.
- Tiger reserves increased from 47 to 58, U Gaj Gaurav Awards Presented To: Forest staff and mahouts from Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu for their contribution to elephant care and protection.

## E20 Petrol

A scheme to reduce environmental pollution and increase farmers' income by mixing 20 percent ethanol extracted from sugarcane or corn with petrol.

- E20 fuel is the government's initiative to mix 20% ethanol with petrol for use as fuel in vehicles. This program is part of India's broader strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, promote biofuels, and reduce carbon emissions.
- E20 petrol fuel provides enhanced propulsion.
- **Using E20 Petrol:** E20 petrol gives about 30 percent lower carbon emissions than E10 petrol.

#### Kadamba Tree

- The Kadamba tree (Neolamarckia cadamba) occupies an important place in the diverse ecological landscape of India.
- It belongs to the family Rubiaceae and can grow up to 45 meters tall. Its highly fragrant flowers are shaped like tennis balls.
- In traditional Ayurvedic medicine, its leaves and flowers are used to treat many diseases.

## Satpura Tiger Reserve

 It was established in 2000 and is located in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh, nestled within the Satpura ranges and south of the Narmada River

#### **RICE VARIETIES**

- Union government has introduced two varieties of Rice - "Pusa DST-1" & "Kamala", which have been created through 'gene editing'.
- The developers of these varieties have cut and deleted parts of the rice genome, with a claim that these varieties have increased the yield, and have tolerance to drought and salinity

## Forest Rights Act, 2006

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, popularly known as FRA was enacted in 2006.

**Objective**: To undo historical injustice occurred to forest dwelling communities; ensure their livelihood & food security etc.

## Forest Rights Recognized Under FRA:

- Individual Rights: Rights of Self-cultivation
   & Habitation, In-situ rehabilitation etc.
- Community Rights: Grazing, Fishing & access to Water bodies in forests, right to intellectual property & traditional knowledge, right to protect traditional customary rights.

## Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958

• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, is a landmark Indian law enacted to preserve and protect ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance.

## Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991

• Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 is an Indian law that prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and mandates that the religious character of a place of worship must remain unchanged from its status on August 15, 1947

## **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve**

• The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR) has become India's second-largest tiger reserve after the National Board for Wildlife approved West Bengal's proposal to add 1,044.68 sq km.

- The reserve now covers 3,629.57 sq km, up from the earlier seventh rank.
- The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve is a UNESCO
   World Heritage Site and part of the world's largest mangrove ecosystem, located in West Bengal.
- It forms a crucial part of India's Project Tiger network and is globally renowned for its unique mangrove-tiger ecosystem.
- Declared a Tiger Reserve in 1973, under the first phase of Project Tiger.
- Became a Biosphere Reserve in 1989, recognized by UNESCO in 2001.
- Declared a Ramsar Wetland Site in 2019, adding global conservation significance.
- The largest tiger reserve in India is the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, located in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, covering an area of approximately 3,728 square kilometers.

## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

 Neighboring Nepal has officially joined the India-led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which conserves 7 big cat species including tigers and lions.

## **About the International Big Cat Alliance:**

- The IBCA is a multilateral alliance of over 90 countries and organizations dedicated to the conservation of 7 big cat species including tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, jaguars, leopards and puma.
- The alliance was launched by the Prime Minister in Mysore, Karnataka, on April 9, 2023.

 With the help of this organization, countries can share their experiences and pool resources in conserving big cat species

## National Designated Authority (NDA)

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced a National Designated Authority (NDA), a mandatory requirement under the provisions of the 2015 Paris Agreement, to enable a carbon emissions trading regime.
- Within the Paris Agreement, a section called Article 6 defines the contours under which such an emis-sions trading regime or a market can take shape.
- A long-standing bone of con-tention among countries, Article 6 was finally passed at the 29th edition of the cli-mate COP in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024.

#### India's NDC commitment:

- reducing its GDP's emis-sion intensity by 45%by 2030 from 2005 levels
- achieving 50% electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030
- creating an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5-3 billion tonnes of car-bon dioxide by 2030 through afforestation.

## **Blue Flag Certification**

- Each beach is awarded the Blue Flag certification considering 33 aspects such as water quality, environmental management, and safety.
- In that regard, in the current financial year, it was announced that steps will be taken to

award the Blue Flag certification to the beaches Thiruvanmiyur, Palavakkam, Utthandi, Kulasekaranpattinam in Thoothukudi district, Kilputhupattu in Villupuram district, and Samiyarpettai in Cuddalore district.

- Beaches in Tamil Nadu that have received the Blue Flag certification
  - Kovalam Beach

## Indians' lifespan will increase by 3.5 years

- A University of Chicago Energy Policy Institute report states that reducing India's air pollution to global standards could increase average lifespan by 3.5 years.
- Air pollution in India was higher in 2023 than 2022, exceeding WHO guidelines by 8 times.

- The northern plains, home to 38.9% of India's population, could see a 5-year lifespan increase if pollution is reduced to WHO standards.
- Delhi residents could gain 8.2 years.
- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra are also significantly affected by air pollution.

## **Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary**

- The Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Madurantakam taluk of Chengalpattu district, was established in 1936.
- It is the oldest water bird sanctuary in India.
- It was recognised as a Ramsar site in 2022. Each year, the sanctuary attracts more than 40,000 migratory birds, including species from as far as Europe and Central Asia.s

Vetrii IAS Study Circle

## **INDIAN POLITY**

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

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

## Eligibility Criteria to Contest

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

## **Central Water Commission (CWC)**

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

## **Notary Portal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Recognised Political Parties**

Currently, 6 national parties and 67 state

parties are registered as recognized parties with the Election Commission.

- **State Party**: A registered party must meet any one of the following:
  - 6% Vote + 2 Assembly Seats: The party must secure at least 6% of the valid votes polled in the Legislative Assembly election and win at least 2 seats in that Assembly.
  - 6% Vote + 1 Lok Sabha Seat: It must win at least 6% of valid votes in the Lok Sabha election held in that state and secure 1 seat in Lok Sabha from that state.
  - 3% of Assembly Seats or 3 Seats Minimum: The party must win at least 3% of the total Assembly seats, or at least 3 seats (whichever is higher) in the Legislative Assembly.
  - 1 of Every 25 Lok Sabha Seats: The party must win 1 Lok Sabha seat out of every 25 seats allocated to the state.
  - 8% Vote Share: It must secure at least 8% of the total valid votes in a state, either in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, even if it wins no seats.
- National Party: A registered party must meet any one of the following:
  - 6% Vote in 4 States + 4 Lok Sabha Seats: The party must secure at least 6% of valid votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in four or more states, and win at least 4 Lok Sabha seats from any states.
  - 2% Lok Sabha Seats from 3 States: It must win at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats (currently 11 out of 543), and those seats must be from at least 3 different states.

• Recognized as State Party in 4 States: If a party is recognized as a State Party in four or more states, it automatically qualifies as a National Party.

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

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

## National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization

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

#### **TRANSTAN**

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

- Cadaver Transplant Programme was made a Government Society in May 2015 and named as Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- President of TRANSTAN Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Vice President Election**

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

#### Qualifications

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

## **Electoral College**

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

## **Proportional Representation:**

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

## **Joint Sitting of Parliament**

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

#### LS Speaker Initiates Removal Process

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

## **Habeas Corpus**

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

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

## **IRDAI**

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

#### SARFAESI Act

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

## **One Nation, One Election**

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

## **National Sports Governance Bill 2025**

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

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

#### POCSO Act 2012

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

## Supreme Court Collegium Cannot Dictate High Court Appointments

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

## Indus Water Treaty (IWT)- 1960

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

## **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023**

- Provides immunity to CEC & ECs for decisions taken in past and present.
- Removal only on same grounds as a Supreme misbehaviour Court judge (proved incapacity).
- Requires two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament.
- At least 50 MPs must sign to initiate motion.

#### **Overseas Citizen of India Scheme**

- The Home Ministry has expanded rules for cancelling Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards, allowing revocation if a holder is convicted with imprisonment of 2 years or more, or is charge-sheeted for offences punishable with 7 years or more.
- The OCI scheme was launched in August 2005 by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 to allow registration of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).
- An OCI card is given to foreign passport holders of Indian origin and serves as a multiple-entry, multi-purpose, lifelong visa for visiting India.
- However, OCI does not grant dual citizenship.

## • Eligibility:

- Citizens of India on/after 26 January 1950, or were eligible for citizenship on that date their descendants, and spouses (married for  $\geq 2$  years).
- · Individuals who are or have been citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh are specifically excluded from the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) scheme.

#### **E-Jagriti Platform**

• 10 States (Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Kerala, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh) along with National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission have recorded a disposal rate of over 100 percent on E-Jagriti platform in July 2025.

## About E-Jagriti platform

- Launched on: 1st January, 2025
- Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.
- Tamil Nadu achieved the highest disposal rate of 277% on the e-Jagriti platform in July 2025.
- Objective:
- Computerization and networking of all Consumer Commissions at the national, state, and district levels to ensure transparency, efficiency, and speedy resolution of consumer disputes.
- e-Jagriti enables consumers to file complaints, track case statuses, and access judgments online.

## **Election Commission**

- Election Commission (EC) listed 28 initiatives in past 6 months under 4 categories.
- Aimed at streamlining and improving the electoral process.
- **ECINET:** A new one-stop digital platform has been launched to combine more than 40 apps and websites for voters, officials, and political parties.

#### **About Election Commission**

- ECI is a permanent Constitutional Body established in on 25th January 1950.
- Constitutional Provision:Part XV the Constitution entailing Articles 324 to 329.
- Statutory provisions: The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 regulates their appointment, service conditions, tenure, etc.
- Key role: ECI Administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies and Offices of the President and Vice President
- Composition: It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (EC).

#### Vice President Election Process

- According to Articles 63 to 71 of the Constitution and the Vice President (Election) Rules, an 20 election for the post must be conducted within 60 days of the Vice President's resignation.
- In India, the Vice President is elected by members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (elected and nominated MPs) either through election or unanimous decision. If there is a contest in the election, a secret ballot will be conducted based on ballot papers and results will be declared.
- The election is conducted under Article 66(1) of the Constitution using the Proportional Representation System by means of a single transferable vote through secret ballot.

## **Translation of Proceedings in 22** Languages

 Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced that henceforth, parliamentary proceedings will be translated into all languages (22 languages) included under the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. While proceedings have been translated into 19 languages so far, additional translations will be undertaken in Kashmiri, Konkani, and Santhali languages.

## **Central Information Commission (CIC)**

- Established: The CIC was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is not a constitutional body.
- Members: The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- Appointment: They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Tenure: The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 3 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment (as per the amendments made in RTI Act, 2005 in 2019).

#### **Power and Functions of CIC:**

 It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person regarding information requested under RTI, 2005.

- The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suomoto power).
- While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc.

#### **State Information Commission:**

- It is constituted by the State Government.
- IthasoneStateChiefInformationCommissioner (SCIC) and not more than 10 State Information Commissioners (SIC) to be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Appointments Committee headed by the Chief Minister.

## Articles of the Constitution Relating to Language

- Article 343 of the Indian Constitution
  - Ensures the use of Hindi as the official language of the Central Government, along with English.
- Article 345 of the Indian Constitution Explains the regional languages of the states.
- Article 346 of the Indian Constitution -Explains the language of communication between the Central and State Governments.
- Article 348 of the Indian Constitution mandates English as the language for proceedings in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- While Article 348(2) allows for the use of Hindi or other state languages in High Court proceedings with Presidential consent, the final judgments, decrees, or orders must still be in English.
- In Tamil Nadu, English remains the sole language of the High Court to date.

- In the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya, English is the only official language.
- Apart from this, in more than 10 Indian states, English is the official language along with the mother tongue.

#### **Bills Passed in Parliament**

- Tribal reservation bill 2025 in Goa Assembly
  - To Readjust ST Representation in Goa Assembly
- Manipur Goods and Services (Amendment) Bill 2025
  - It amends the Manipur Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- National Sports Governance Bill 2025
  - to provide for the development and promotion of sports, welfare measures for sportspersons, ethical practices based on basic universal principles of good governance
- National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill 2025
  - to strengthen the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022, granting greater autonomy to the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill 2025
  - to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and the Finance Act, 2025.
- Indian Ports Bill 2025
  - establishes the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) as a statutory consultative body to coordinate between the Centre and coastal States
- Mines and Minerals (Development Regulation) Amendment Bill 2025
  - strengthening the exploration and extraction of critical minerals
- IIM (Amendment) Bill 2025

- for setting up the 22nd IIM in the country at Guwahati
- Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Bill 2025
  - bans real money games in India citing national security and welfare

## **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**

- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 introduced some major changes to the Indian Constitution. This act, also known as the Constitutional amendment Act, 1976, made the following changes to the Constitution:
- Reducing the power of the Supreme Court and High Courts
- Formulated fundamental duties for citizens
- Words Socialism, Secular and Integrity were added to the Preamble
- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act as 'Mini Constitution'
- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976 changed the basic structure of the Indian Constitution

## National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

## **Proposed Law**

- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was created through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014 and the NJAC Act, 2014.
- It attempted to replace the Collegium system for appointing judges to SC and HCs with a multi-stakeholder system.

#### Structure of NJAC

- Chief Justice of India (Chairman)
- Two senior SC judges
- Union Law Minister

 Two eminent persons (selected by Prime Minister, Chief Justice and Leader of Opposition, one from SC/ST/OBC/Women/ Minorities)

#### Why was NJAC struck down?

- In 2015, a 5-judge bench (4:1) ruled it unconstitutional as NJAC violated the basic structure doctrine.
- The court noted that judicial primacy in appointments is part of the basic structure, and NJAC allowed the executive to interfere through veto powers.
- Concerns about judicial independence and the possibility of 3-3 deadlocks led to the rejection of the law.

# Census 2027 to retain urban area definition of previous count in 2011

- Urban Area Definition: The Census 2027 will use the same definition for urban areas as the 2011 Census. This is to ensure uniformity and allow for the comparison of urbanization trends.
- Statutory towns: Municipal corporations, cantonment boards, notified town area committees, town panchayats, nagar palikas.
- Definition of a "Census Town": A census town
  is a non-statutory urban unit defined by three
  criteria:
  - A minimum population of 5,000 persons.
  - A population density of at least 400 persons per sq. km.
  - At least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.

#### S.R. Bommai case (1994)

• The Supreme Court, in its judgment in S.R. Bom-mai case (1994), had held that the U proclamation of President's Rule could be reviewed by courts to en-sure it was not motivated by mala fide reasons.

#### Article 356

 Article 356 of the Constitution covers the circum-stances leading to the Pre-sident's Rule in a State. The President's decision is based on a report given by the Governor about the fai-lure of the constitutional machinery of the State.

#### Article 200

 Article 200 deals with the Governor's power to deal with State Bills placed before him for assent.

## **Election Commission of India (ECI)**

 The ECI is a high constitutional body that is entrusted with the task of superintending, directing and controlling the preparation of electoral rolls and conducting elections to Parliament, State legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice President of India.

#### **Article 324 and Election Commission Powers**

- Article 324 grants the Election Commission of India (ECI) extensive powers to conduct free and fair elections, which forms part of the Constitution's basic structure.
- The Supreme Court has recognized Article 324 as a "reservoir of powers" for the ECI to ensure electoral fairness, but it must operate within constitutional and legal bounds.

- The ECI's role is to prepare electoral rolls and conduct elections fairly, not to issue ultimatums to political leaders or engage in adversarial political discourse.
- When citizens report irregularities in electoral rolls, the ECI has a constitutional obligation to examine these complaints and rectify system faults.

#### **Electoral Roll Revision**

- The Representation of People Act 1950 provides for electoral roll revision before elections or annually, as directed by the ECI. Special revisions can be conducted in specific constituencies with recorded reasons (Section 21).
- The Registration of Electors Rules 1960 allows for either summary or intensive revision methods (Rule 25).

#### RTE Act 2009

- Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE), is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009 which came into force on 1 April 2010
- The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools. It requires all private schools to reserve 25% of seats to children (to be reimbursed by the state as part of the publicprivate partnership plan).
- Kids are admitted in to private schools based on economic status or caste based reservations.

- It also prohibits all unrecognised schools from practice, and makes provisions for no donation or capitation fees and no interview of the child or parent for admission.
- The Act also provides that no child shall be held back, exp00elled, or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education.
- There is also a provision for special training of school drop-outs to bring them up to par with students of the same age

## **Appointment as Supreme Court Judges**

- Bombay High Court Chief Justice Alok Arade and Patna High Court Chief Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi were both appointed as Supreme Court judges.
- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended their appointment and the Union Law Ministry issued a notification for the appointment of the two judges.
- With their assumption of office, the Supreme Court will reach its full strength of 34 judges.

#### Article 200

Article 200 of the Indian Constitution outlines
 the powers of the Governor regarding a Bill
 passed by the State Legislature, allowing them
 to assent to it, withhold assent, return it for
 reconsideration, or reserve it for the President's
 consideration.

- If a bill is returned for reconsideration and then passed again by the legislature, the Governor is bound to give assent.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that Governors cannot withhold assent indefinitely but must act "as soon as possible"

#### Article 32

- Article 32 of the Indian Constitution, known as the "Right to Constitutional Remedies," guarantees citizens the right to directly approach the Supreme Court for the enforcement of their Fundamental Rights.
- This article gives the Supreme Court the power to issue directions, orders, and writs such as habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari to ensure these rights are upheld.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called it the "heart and soul of the Constitution" for making these rights real and enforceable

## Central-State Relations Review Committees

- 1969 Justice B.V. Rajamannar
- 1983 Sarkaria Commission
- 2007 Punchi Commission
- 2025 Kurian Joseph Committees

# **INDIAN ECONOMY**

#### MPC holds repo rate at 5.5%

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

#### **About Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate**

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

## **Committee related to Monetary Policy**

• Chakravarty Committee (1982-85): It was set up by the then RBI Governor Manmohan Singh under Sukhamoy Chakravarty to review monetary policy.

 Urjit Patel Committee (2014): It formalized inflation targeting, setting the 4% target (±2% band), a target first proposed by the Chakravarty Committee 40 years ago.

## **Indian Agriculture Achievements**

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

#### **Digital Transactions**

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

## Capital expenditure

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

• It helps in improving economic activity and generating employment.

### **India's Export Achievements**

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

#### **GST 2.0 Reform Committee**

- It is a group of State Finance Ministers on nextgeneration Goods and Services Tax (GST 2.0 reform).
- The Finance Ministry last week recommended to the GST review committee to reduce the existing four GST rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% into two slabs of 5% and 18%, and to retain a 40% tax rate only on 7 items.
- It also has a plan to provide GST exemption on insurance premium amounts.

#### **Indian Passes**

- Lipulekh Pass Uttarakhand
- Shipki La Pass Himachal Pradesh
- Nathu La Pass Sikkim

## **Lion-tailed Macaque**

- Habitat: It is omnivorous and eats a variety of foods, although fruits are a major part of their diet.
- Meanwhile, this animal is one of the world's smallest monkey species.
- It is native to the evergreen rainforests of the southern part of the Western Ghats, with its range extending through three states: Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- Conservation Status
- IUCN: Critically Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

## Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nominated its Executive Director Indranil Bhattacharvya as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a statutory body established to set India's benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate).
- Formed in 2016 under the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934 (amended in 2016).
- It is an institutionalised inflation targeting framework in India.
- The Governor of RBI serves as the ex-officion Chairperson of the MPC.

#### Structure of Organisation

- Since 20 6 members in total:
  - 3 members from the RBI (Governor, Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, and one Executive Director).
  - 3 external members nominated by the Central Government.

## **National Company Law Appellate** Tribunal (NCLAT)

NCLAT (National Company Appellate Tribunal) was established on June 1, 2016, under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against orders from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and other bodies like the Insolvency

and Bankruptcy Board of India and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

 The tribunal plays a crucial role in India's corporate and insolvency dispute resolution process.

## India - 2nd-largest economy by 2038 in **PPP** terms

- India's economy could reach \$20.7 trillion in terms of purchasing power par-ity (PPP) by 2030 and may emerge as the secondlargest economy by 2038 with \$34.2 trillion GDP, according to report by an EY Economy Watch
- The report also said that with appropriate countermeasures, India can limit the adverse impact of higher US tariffs on se-lected Indian imports to about 10 basis points of real GDP growth.
- India is emerging as one of the most dynamic among the world's five largest economies, with strong economic funda-mentals including 20 high savings and investment rates, favourable

demographics, and sustainable a fiscal position.

#### India's GDP Growth

- According to central government data, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year (2025-26).
- It is noteworthy that GDP grew by 8.4 percent in the January-March 2024 quarter.
- India continues to be a rapidly growing economy.
  - The value of the Indian Rupee against the Dollar has declined to Rs. 88.19, reaching an unprecedented low.

## Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO):

 The country's GDP has achieved a growth of 7.8 percent in the April-June quarter of 2025-26. The growth in the agriculture sector and services sector including trade, hotels, finance, and real estate has been the main reason for this.

Vetrii IAS Study Circle

## **TAMIL NADU**

### Madurai Tamil Sangam

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

#### **Bharathiyar**

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

## Raja of Panagal's Temple **Administration Reforms**

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

#### Kombu

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

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

## Rajendra Chola I : From Eelamandalam to Kadaram

## **Conquests and Naval Campaigns**

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

## Southeast Asian Campaign – Kadaram

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

#### **Chola Naval Strength**

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

- Campaigns showcased the Cholas' ability to project power across the Bay of Bengal.
- Loss and Reassertion
- 1029 CE: Vikkamabahu I, son of Mahinda V, led a successful Sinhalese rebellion, ending Chola control in Sri Lanka.
- · Rajendra's successor, Virarajendra I, claimed to have reconquered Kadaram, indicating temporary control.

#### **Diplomacy and Trade**

- Diplomatic ties with Srivijaya and China were active before and after conflict.
- Chudamani Vihara in Nagapattinam was built with support from Srivijaya's ruler.
- Karandai copper plates mention the King of Kambhoja (Angkor/Khmer Empire) sending a war chariot as a gesture of friendship.

#### Legacy

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

## Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons 2025

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

#### Aim

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

#### **Beneficiaries**

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

- Legal and Administrative Provisions
- Legal Recognition and issuance documents.
- State will amend inheritance laws (Hindu Succession Act, Indian Succession Act) to guarantee right to inheritance for transgender and intersex persons.
- State to ensure implementation of laws against gender-based violence by family, intimate partners, and others.
- All educational institutions must update name and gender in academic records per the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. 2019.

#### **Housing and Shelter**

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

## **Education & Employment**

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

#### Healthcare

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

## Justice, Representation, and Support

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

## **Governance & Monitoring**

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

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

#### 'Nalam Kakkum Stalin' camps

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

## **Bharatanatyam**

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

#### 'School of Semiconductor' Initiative

• Pioneering Initiative: It's a new program for India's technology sector, with the goal of building a globally competitive semiconductor workforce in Tamil Nadu.

- Key Component: The first major action under this initiative is the creation of a Centre for Advanced Semiconductor Technologies.
  - Unique Feature: This centre will have India's first "in situ" semiconductor fab processing facility, a small-scale production-grade fab that will aid in research, skilling, and technology localization.
  - Partnerships: The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Tamil Nadu government, IIT Madras, and major corporate partners in the semiconductor industry.
  - Funding: The Tamil Nadu government will provide an initial seed grant of □100 crore.
  - Location: The proposed centre will be located at the Central Polytechnic Campus in Chennai.

## Training and Goals

- The centre will train over 4,500 candidates through specialized 2-6-week modules.
- The training will focus on practical applications in key sectors like electric data vehicles, centres, and space technology.
- The initiative aims to develop human capital across all levels, from technicians to managers, and support a range of activities from fabless design to start-ups and R&D.
- Broader Vision: The goal is to make Tamil Nadu an indispensable source of highlyskilled talent for the semiconductor industry, both nationally and globally.
- **Collaboration**: The initiative will also explore collaboration with the Union Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

• Implementation: The Department of Industries ① and the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation will work together to implement the initiative.

## "Nalam Kakkum Stalin" program

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

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

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

## **Historical Legacy**

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

#### **Impressive Education Indicators**

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

#### Flagship Schemes

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

## Veargalai Thedi

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

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

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

- Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) of police personnel.
- This move aims to eradicate caste conflicts and promote uniformity within the police force

## Kev Recommendations of the T.N. Police Commission

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

## Blue Flag beach

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

## The Blue Flag initiative

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tamil Nadu's organ donation initiative

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

#### Impact of the State Honours Initiative

- Launched in September 2023.
- It is India's first State-led climate fellowship It is "first-of-its-kind" Government Order, which resonated deeply with the public and increased awareness.

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

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

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

#### Other Proactive Measures

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

## **Mudhalvar Padaippagam**

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

## **About Mudhalvar Padaippagam**

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

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

## **TN Rising Investors Conclave in** Thoothukudi

- Thoothukudi was chosen as the host city for the inaugural edition of TN Rising.
- The Tamil Nadu government signed 0 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for 41 projects with a total investment of □32,554 crore.
- Out of the 41 projects, 19 are in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, with a combined investment of  $\square 265.15$  crore.
- **4** commercial production projects inaugurated in: Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kancheepuram.
- Four new projects were announced specifically for Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, including:
- A 256-acre space park in Thoothukudi.
- dedicated shipbuilding industry Thoothukudi.
- A common facility center for moringa export in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, at a cost of Rs.5.59 crore.

## Existing projects:

- Desalination plant Thoothukudi
- TIDEL Park Madurai & Thoothukudi
- PM Mitra Park Virudhunagar
- TATA Power Solar & Vikram Solar -Tirunelveli

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

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

## Per Capita Income (2024-25)

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

#### **Future Outlook**

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

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

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

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

#### **Significance & Conservation**

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

## Third phase of Maaperum Tamil Kanavu

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

## **About Maaperum Tamil Kanavu Initiative**

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

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

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

## Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme

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

## Kalaianar Student Journalists Scheme and Kalaignar Financial Aid Scheme for **Scholars**

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

### Thanjavur's Sarasvati Mahal Library

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

#### Historical Background

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

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

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

#### Free Bus Travel in Tamil Nadu

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

#### Kamban Vizha '25

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

- Ivattramizh **Arignar** Award T.Gnanasundaram, Pazha. Pazhaniappan, Saradga Nambi Arooran, Suki Sivam, Barrier-free infrastructure (ramps, accessible Ilankai Jevaraj.
- Kambar Kalainaya Chelvar Award Inclusive curriculum & teaching materials. S.P.Muthuraman (film director).

## TAMIL NADU STATE EDUCATION POLICY-**2025 SCHOOL EDUCATION**

#### Vision

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

#### **Historical Achievements**

- Near-universal enrolment at primary & upper primary levels.
- Dropout rate Zero at primary/upper primary; 7.7% at secondary.
- Strong welfare measures: free textbooks, uniforms, midday meals, bus passes.
- Literacy rate among highest in India; gender 201 and critical thinking. parity in enrolment.

## **Emerging Challenges**

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

#### **Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice**

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

#### **Kev Measures:**

- Scholarships, residential hostels.
- toilets).
- Annual Equity Audits to assess fairness.
- Gender equity clubs & menstrual hygiene facilities.

#### **Basic Literacy & Numeracy (BLN)**

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

## **Curriculum & Pedagogical Reform**

- Shift from rote learning → competency-based, experiential, inquiry-driven learning.
- Strengthen Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Integration of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage in curriculum.
- Class 10 (per Tamil Learning Act 2006).
- Mother tongue in early childhood education for concept clarity.
- Broadened pedagogy: arts, sports, projects, field visits.

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

#### **Core Skills:**

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

- Global citizenship mindset.
- TN-SPARK programme: AI, robotics, coding in schools.
- Expand blended learning Kalvi TV, Manarkeni App.
- Promote climate literacy & entrepreneurship education.
- Address urban-rural digital gaps.
- Assessment Reforms
- Move from high-stakes exams to formative diagnostic evaluation.
- Use project work, peer & self-assessment.
- No-Detention Policy for Classes 1–8 continues.
- Bridge courses for students with learning gaps.
- Learning outcome monitoring at school level.
- Teacher Capacity-Building
- Payirchi Paarvai digital platform for training.
- Peer mentoring & modular skill development courses.
- Leadership training for school heads.
- Specialised training for teachers in tribal & 201 hilly areas.
- Focus areas: inclusive education, digital pedagogy, socio-emotional learning.
- Safe & Inclusive Schools
- Promote child rights & gender sensitivity.
- Strengthen mental health support school counsellors, helplines.
- Physical fitness & traditional sports integration.
- Magizh Mandram student clubs for arts, environment, leadership.

#### Resilient & Sustainable Infrastructure

 Upgrade to smart classrooms with digital boards.

- Fully equipped science & computer labs.
- Barrier-free access for Children with Special Needs.
- Green campuses: solar power, rainwater harvesting.
- Model Schools & Vetri Palligal excellence hubs to be scaled state-wide.

## Community Engagement & Decentralised Governance

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

#### Conclusion

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

## Sponge parks

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

 Sponge parks are engineered wetlands designed to mimic natural ecosystems by absorbing, storing, and filtering rainwater, helping to manage stormwater and mitigate urban flooding.

## Chola-era Ardhanarisvara Sculpture

- A 1,000-year-old stone sculpture of Ardhanarisvara, which was stolen from the Viruddhagireeswarar temple in Vriddhachalam, will be put on public display at the temple.
- The sculpture is considered a significant example of Chola artistry, which flourished from the 9th to the 13th century CE.
- The sculpture depicts Ardhanarisvara, a composite form of the Hindu deities Shiva and his consort, Parvati.

## The second synchronized survey of Nilgiri Tahr

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

 It states the isolated Nilgiri tahr population (nine) in the division is connected to Kerala's Elival Mala region.

## Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme

 A study titled "A Right to Care, A Right to Welfare" by the Laws of Social Reproduction project found that 49% of KMUT beneficiaries used the assistance to buy household goods.

## About Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) Scheme

- Launched by the Tamil Nadu government in September 2024.
- Provides monthly cash assistance of □1,000 to eligible women.
- Aims to recognise and support women's unpaid domestic and care work.
- Women, who have completed 21 years of age (born before September 15, 2002), are eligible to apply for the scheme.
- Only one-woman member in a ration card is eligible to apply.

## Parambikulam - Azhiyar Project

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

## Rameshwaram Infrastructure **Development Project**

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

## Agal Vilakku scheme

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

#### Implementation:

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

#### **Pension Committee in Tamil Nadu**

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

## Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme

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

- Following this, it was decided to implement the scheme throughout the state.
- The scheme will be implemented on the second
   Saturday and Sunday of every month.
- Details of family cards and beneficiaries eligible for this scheme have been obtained from the Food Supply and Consumer Protection Department and sent to field officers.

## Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme

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

## About Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme

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

- This scheme provides for 1090 treatment methods including treatment methods for infants, 8 continuous treatment procedures, and 52 examination methods.
- This scheme is designed to benefit all ages from infants to elderly.
- Benefits: Under this scheme, a family can receive treatment free of charge up to Rs.5,00,000/- per year in approved hospitals.

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

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

## Tamil Nadu's new HAWK platform

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

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

#### **Hero Stone**

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

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

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

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

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

- Early Resistance (18th Century)
  - Queen Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga: Fought the British with her sword.
  - Puli Thevan (1751): First to raise the war cry against British rule from Nelkattumseval.
  - Veerapandiya Kattabomman (Panchalankurichi): Resisted British rule; captured and hanged at Kayathar in 1799.
  - Dheeran Chinnamalai: Fought and won battles against British at Kaveri banks and Odanilai; later hanged at Sankagiri Fort in 1805.
- Vellore Sepoy Uprising (1806)
  - Sparked by religious and dress restrictions imposed by British.
  - 1,500 sepoys rebelled; nearly 100 Englishmen were killed.
  - Considered a precursor to the 1857 First War of Independence.

## Assassination of Robert Ash (1911)

- Vanchinathan killed British Collector Robert Ash at Maniyachi Railway Station.
- Marked a major turning point in the freedom struggle.
- 20th Century Freedom Movement

#### **Key Leaders:**

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

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

#### Kanchipuram

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

#### **Tamil Kanavu Initiative**

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

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

## Waste-to-Energy Projects in Tamil Nadu

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

#### Blue Flag project

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

#### The Blue Flag initiative

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

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

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

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

#### Features:

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

#### **Vetri Schools Scheme**

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

- Government Model Schools were launched in 2021-22, and currently, 38 district-level schools are functioning.
- The scheme ensures government school students get opportunities to enter premier institutions.
- Best practices from district model schools will be scaled to block level.
- 500 Vetri Schools will be created across 414 blocks.
- One government higher secondary school in each block will be upgraded with modern facilities like smart classrooms.

#### **Special Features:**

- Weekly classes by higher education mentors, preparation materials for entrance into premier institutions, video lessons, and direct teacher training will be provided.
- Students in Plus 2 from all government higher secondary schools in the block can attend these sessions.
- Around 50,000 students are expected to benefit, increasing representation in premier institutions.

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

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

## **Independence Day Announcements by** Tamil Nadu CM - 9 New Initiatives

- The monthly pension provided to the freedom fighters by the state government will be increased from Rs. 21 thousand to Rs. 22 thousand.
- The family pension provided to the families of the freedom fighters will be increased from Rs. 11,500 to Rs. 12 thousand.
- The monthly special pension for descendants of Veera Pandiya Kattabomman, Ramanathapuram King Muthuramalinga Vijayaragunatha Sethupathi, Sivagangai Marudhu Brothers, and V. Uchidambaranar will be increased to Rs. 11 thousand.
- The lifetime monthly financial assistance provided to the ex-servicemen from Tamil Nadu who participated in the Second World War will be increased to Rs. 15 thousand.
- The lifetime monthly financial assistance provided to the spouses of the soldiers who participated in the Second World War and died will be increased to Rs. 8 thousand.
- A hostel with infrastructure facilities will be built at Madhavaram, Chennai for the convenience of ex-servicemen from Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 22 crore.
- The free Vaidya Jatra scheme implemented in the hilly areas of Tamil Nadu will be extended to the differently-abled.

- One training center will be started at the state level, two at the zonal level and one training school per district for driving training.
- While the children of workers registered with the Construction Workers Welfare Board are studying in college, online skill development training will be provided to improve their skills and get employment.
- Free transportation for differently-abled in hilly buses Travel Plan: The Chief Minister announced that a free morning travel plan for the differently-abled will be implemented in hilly buses.

## ASI's underwater studies at Mahabalipuram

- The Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of the ASI has resumed its underwater archaeological studies off the coast of Mahabalipuram after a gap of two decades.
- The new phase of fieldwork is a continuation of previous investigations carried out in 2001 and systematic excavations in 2004-2005.
- New Phase of Study (2025): Equipped with a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for highresolution imagery and video of submerged remains without disturbing them.
- Mahabalipuram monuments built during 7th-8th century Pallava dynasty. Served as a landmark to sailors for centuries.
- Earlier Discoveries: The underwater study conducted east of the Shore Temple and north of the Mahisasura rock revealed submerged remains, including three walls and carved architectural members of ancient temples.

#### Tamil Nadu Tourism

- Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Rs.49.11 crore (2020-21) to □243.31 crore (2023-24).
- Policy Milestone: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister; on September 26, released 'Tourism Policy 2023' which aims to attract investments of Rs.20,000 crore into this sector over the next five years.
- Major Projects Implemented:
- Keeladi Museum:
  - Established to showcase findings from the Keeladi excavations (Sangam-era urban settlement).
  - Exhibits artefacts such as pottery, beads, tools, and inscriptions that reveal the urban culture of ancient Tamil civilization (6th century BCE – 1st century CE).
- Jallikattu Arena (Alanganallur, Madurai district)
- India's First **Fiberglass** Sea Bridge: (Kanniyakumari)
  - First of its kind in India, offering visitors panoramic views of the confluence of the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, and Arabian Sea.

#### Cauvery delta records highest-ever Kuruvai crop coverage this year

- The Cauvery delta has achieved its highest-ever Kuruvai crop coverage this year, exceeding six lakh acres.
- As of August 10, the coverage was 6.09 lakh acres, which is about 40% higher than the normal coverage of 4.4 lakh acres.
- This represents a 57% increase compared to last year's coverage of 3.88 lakh acres.

- The previous record was 5.6 lakh acres, set in 2023-24.
- Corporation's revenue rose fivefold from \* Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts alone account for nearly two lakh acres each of the total coverage.

District	Kuruvai coverage*	
	2025	2025
I. Delta (Kuruvai)		
Cuddalore	29,363	26,488
Tiruchi	13,170	13,086
Ariyalur	9,196	7,054
Thanjavur	194,283	141,385
Nagapattinam	74,636	4,261
Mayiladuthurai	96,703	96,836
Tiruvarur	191,603	98,622
Delta total	608,954	387,733
II. Non-delta		
Kar (southern districts)	96,342	81,752
Summer planting - April & May	102,952	74,337
Sornavari (northern districts)	424,470	405,008
Non-delta total	623,764	561,098
GRAND TOTAL	1,232,718	948,831

## Instant crop loan scheme

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched an instant crop loan scheme under Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) on a pilot basis in Dharmapuri on 17, August 2025.
- Farmers can apply online, and loan amounts will be credited to their accounts on the same day.
- It replaces earlier system of in-person applications and long waiting periods.
- Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030 (TNSM 2030)

- Tamil Nadu sanctioned the Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme under its Rs.s500crore TNSM 2030 (Announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025).
- Aim: To strengthen the fabless design ecosystem with subsidies and prototyping grants.
- Goal: Position Tamil Nadu as a hub for chip innovation.
- 1,000 engineering students to be trained under the India Semiconductor Workforce Development Program (ISWDP).

## Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal

- Chief Minister launched the 'Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal' scheme on 19 August 2025 to help former servicemen take up entrepreneurship.
- Chief Minister launched the distribution of aid to 155 former servicemen, who would receive a total of □24.43 crore, including a 30% capital subsidy for their businesses.
- In the first phase of the scheme, a total of 348 beneficiaries would get □50.50 crore in aid, including a 30% capital subsidy and a 3% interest subsidy, which is expected to reduce the financial burden on former servicemen taking up entrepreneurship.

## **Objectives of the Scheme**

- To promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among Ex-servicemen and their dependents.
- To offer financial support through loans with subsidies.
- To provide training for skill and entrepreneurial development

## The Tamil Nadu government is planning to conduct an Inter-State migrant labour survey

- Tamil Nadu govt. to conduct an Inter-State migrant labour survey to study in-migration, its patterns, and economic implications.
- It aims to cover all 38 districts.

#### The proposed survey aims

- To understand migration (the process, mode of recruitment, and migration history)
- Analyse the working and living conditions (accommodation, food, and other living expenses) of the migrants
- Understand their health condition (access) to health check-ups and health centres)
- Understand their social welfare (social security schemes), and provide policy suggestions.
- 2015: Tamil Nadu Migration Survey Inter-State in-migration to Tamil Nadu is largely an urban phenomenon, with most migrants concentrated in cities.
- 2016: Survey in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur - About 85% of the respondents were from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- As per the 'Report on Life and Times of Migrant Workers in Chennai Region - 2024-25' released by the State Planning Commission: Migrants in Chennai region mainly from Bihar, Odisha, Assam.
- As of Aug 5, 2025, 93,15,434 unorganised workers (incl. migrant workers) registered on eShram portal in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Breakfast Scheme**

- The breakfast program is set to be expanded to government-aided schools in cities.
- Program providing breakfast to government school students
- Launch: Started on September 15, 2022 in Tamil language literature aptitude test will be Madurai.
- Expansion:
  - Thiruvarur district, in Thirukkuvalai
  - Subsequently expanded to governmentaided primary schools in rural areas.

## **Health Improvement:**

 The breakfast program has increased the number of male and female students coming to school, and has also improved children's learning abilities.

#### **Farmer Welfare Service Center**

- Agriculture Minister's call to apply for subsidy Farmer Welfare Service Centers
- Subsidy of Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh for establishing Chief Minister's Farmer Welfare Service Centers.

#### **About Farmer Welfare Service Centers**

- Various special programs being implemented by the Tamil Nadu government to protect farmers' welfare. As a continuation of this, it was announced in this year's government budget that 1,000 Chief Minister's Farmer Welfare Service Centers will be established to help young people who have completed agricultural graduation.
- Under this scheme, 30 percent subsidy, i.e., Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh, will be provided to establish farmer welfare service centers worth Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.
- Those between 20 to 45 years of age who have agriculture-related completed graduation

and wish to benefit from this scheme can apply for appropriate subsidy on the website "AGRISNET "after obtaining loan approval from the bank.

## Tamil Literature Aptitude Test

- conducted for Plus 1 students to improve Tamil literary skills and to receive scholarships.
- 1,500 students will be selected from across Tamil Nadu in this test and will be provided Rs. 1,500 per month for two years through the School Education Department.
- In this test, 50 percent will be given to government school students, and the remaining 50 percent will be given to other private school students including government-aided school students.

## 'Agalvilakku' (Light of Knowledge)

- Internet usage has brought about a huge change in daily life. Although there are numerous constructive uses in it, cyber crimes targeting women, school and college female students are increasing.
- Cyber criminals very easily deceive innocent people.
- To educate school female students about internet-related crimes, a handbook named 'Agalvilakku' has been recently released by the Tamil Nadu School Education Department.
- This explains in detail about online frauds such as hiding one's identity on the internet and threatening to extort money, obscene portrayal, hate speech, spreading illegal information.
- The idea arose that the steps to be taken for those caught in the grip of cyber criminals to

recover from it should be taught at the school level itself.

- Accordingly, the methods for this have been mentioned in the currently released 'Agalvilakku' handbook.
- The 'Agalvilakku' handbook explains about dealing with sending obscene pictures by someone, sharing wrong news and photographs about a particular person on social media, and types of cyber crimes.
- If female students follow the 10 instructions mentioned in this, they can get safe internet usage.

#### **Project School**

- The 'Project School' scheme introduced by Coimbatore District Police helps prevent crimes against girl children and protect them from sexual harassment.
- Moreover, self-defense arts and awareness about sexual crimes are the main features of this scheme.

## Police Akka (Police Sister)

- The Police Akka scheme started by Tamil Nadu Police to prevent crimes against women and children and ensure their safety was welcomed by college female students. In this scheme too, internet-related crimes were mostly investigated.
- Mobile phone numbers of female police officers are provided, and measures are being taken for affected female students to contact them and get solutions. Moreover, female police officers working under this scheme visit colleges at regular intervals and create awareness among female students about cyber crimes and other matters.

#### **Toll-free Phone Number for Women**

- After the Nirbhaya incident in New Delhi, based on the recommendation of Justice Verma Commission, the central government introduced a toll-free helpline number for women.
- Accordingly, the toll-free phone number '181' is in use in Tamil Nadu.

#### Vaalnthu kaatuvom

3,77,367 people living in 3,994 villages have benefited under the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Program called "Vaalnthu kaatuvom" which encourages Tamil Nadu Rural Entrepreneurs and Producers Collective Framework

## 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana' Scheme

- Under the 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana' scheme for agriculture and its allied sector rejuvenation, Rs. 8.98 crore has been provided to 85 agricultural enterprises since 2019.
- Addresses the financial needs of rural entrepreneurs in the form of subsidies
- Rural industrial estate infrastructure with information and application centers are designed to encourage rural entrepreneurial capabilities.

## **Uyarvukku padi (Steps to Success)**

In government, Chennai, Adi Dravidar welfare higher secondary schools, among 4,691 students who studied Plus 2 in the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and passed, failed, did not write exams, dropped out, did not apply for higher education, applied for higher education but did not join college due to various reasons - to provide appropriate counseling and guidance to continue higher

education studies, "Steps to Success" camp will be conducted in four phases in Chennai district under the "Naan Mudhalvan" higher education guidance scheme.

## Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thogai scheme

- Introduced in 2023 by the Tamil Nadu government.
- Provides Rs.1,000 monthly assistance to women heads of families earning less than Rs.2.5 lakh annually.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state in India to recognise women's unpaid domestic and care work through financial compensation.
- Scheme benefits 1.14 crore women in Tamil Nadu.
- Followed later by Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand with similar initiatives.
- Time Use Survey 2024
  - 81.5% of women engage in unpaid domestic work vs 27% of men.
  - Women spend 289 minutes/day on unpaid
  - Women spend 137 minutes/day caregiving vs 75 minutes for men.
- A King's College London study on the Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thittam found that about 50% of women spent the aid on household goods or food, while others used it for medical expenses and cooking gas.

#### Illam Thedi Kalvi

- This scheme was launched on 27th October 2021 at Mudaliarkuppam near Marakkanam.
- Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme is being implemented to bridge the learning gap and losses of students studying in government schools from

class one to eight during the lockdown due to the spread of the Corona pandemic.

A form has been provided on this website for volunteers who want to provide teaching services at the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' centres in the evenings after school.

#### Ennum Ezhuthum scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched a Ennum Ezhuthum' scheme in Tiruvallur.
- A scheme is aimed at ensuring that by 2025, all students from class 1 to 3 under eight years of age in Tamil Nadu are able to read with comprehension and have basic arithmetic skills
- The scheme will be implemented government and government-aided schools for three years starting this academic year.
- The scheme aims to bridge the learning gap.

## Vasippu lyakkam

- The Tamil Nadu government launched the Vasippu Iyakkam (Reading Movement) in domestic services vs 88 minutes for men. 201 July 2023 to encourage reading habits among students in government schools, starting with a pilot phase in the Thuraiyur block of Tiruchi district.
  - The program was designed to promote reading for students in Classes 4 to 9, with books classified by complexity into "Nuzhai," "Nada," "Odu," and "Para" levels

## Uthiramerur inscription

- Location: Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram district, Chengalpattu district
- King: Paranthakan I
- Regnal year: 12 and 14
- Language: Tamil

 The first 12 lines of this inscription, which talk about the Kudavolai system, state

#### Awards and honors

- Periyar Award Kanimozhi
- Anna Award Mana Subha, Seetharaman
- Kalaignar Award So.Ma. Ramachandran
- Pavendhar Award Sivaraman
- Professor Award Marudhur Ramalingam,
- M.K. Stalin Award Pongalur Na. Palanisamy

## First-ever Biodiversity Index for Chennai

- Conducted by ICLEI South Asia, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, and Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).
- Known as the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) or Singapore Index, developed with the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat.
- Chennai scored 38 out of a possible 72 points.
- Guindy National Park and Pallikaranai Marsh (Ramsar site) identified as biodiversity hotspots.But only 5.02% of land is under legal protection.
- Launched by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on August 25
- The index evaluated Chennai across 23 (1) indicators grouped into three components native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and biodiversity governance and management.
- CBI would be developed for five more cities in Tamil Nadu.

## **Anamalai Tiger Reserve is home to 8** species of fireflies

 A recent study conducted by the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) in Vandalur has identified eight species of

fireflies in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in the Western Ghats.

- This is the first systematic study of fireflies in Tamil Nadu that included genetic analysis.
  - The findings highlight the importance of minimizing light pollution around forest and wildlife areas, as fireflies can serve as an indicator species for the effects of light pollution on wildlife.

## Eight species of fireflies identified:

- Abscondita perplexa
- · Abscondita terminalis
- Asymmetricata humeralis
- Curtos (three species)
- Lamprigera sp.
- Pyrocoelia sp.

## **IITM For All programme**

 As many as 28 government school students from Tamil Nadu have received admission into IIT Madras (IIT-M) under the 'IITM For All' programme.

#### **About**

- "IIT" For All" programme, known Anaivarukkum IIT Madras, was launched in July 2022
- It aims to make IIT Madras accessible to all, especially for people in the rural areas due to their economic conditions, digital accessibility and other factors.

#### Vaikunda Swamikal

 Vaikunda Swamikal was a pioneer of social reform, fighting against caste discrimination and the rigid social hierarchies of his time to establish equality and social justice.

#### Ayya Vazhi:

- He introduced Ayya Vazhi, a unique religious way of life, and his followers affectionately \_\_\_ Equality in Practice: called him "Ayya".
- This movement promoted unity and challenged divisions based on caste.

#### Religious & Social Institutions:

· He established Pathis and Nizhal Thankals, which served as temples for those denied entry into ordinary temples, fostering community and spiritual growth for the marginalized.

• Through practices like sama panthi bhojan (community meals), he aimed to achieve unity and equality among all people, regardless of caste.



Vetrii IAS Study Circle

# **NATIONAL - NEWS**

## **Indus Valley Civilization Found in** Rajasthan Desert

- A new Harappan site has been discovered in the deep desert region of Rajasthan, near Ratadiya Ri Dheri in Jaisalmer district.
- It's located about 60 km from Ramgarh (India) and 20 km from Chandanwala (Pakistan).
- Dating of site: Archaeologists date the settlement to the mature urban phase of the Indus Valley civilization i.e. 2600 to 1900 BCE.
- This is the first concrete evidence of Indus Valley presence in the interior desert of Rajasthan.
- The discovery adds Rajasthan to the global map of early urban civilizations.
- Until now, Pilibanga in northern Rajasthan was the state's most prominent Harappan site, discovered by Italian Indologist Luigi Pio 2 Tessitori in the early 20th century.
- This site offers a crucial link between Harappan settlements in Gujarat and northern Rajasthan.
- It helps redefine the geographic spread of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Highlights long-distance trade and resource exchange during Harappan times.
- It backs up theories that changing rivers—and disappearing water sources-shaped where people could live back then.
- It provides insights into:
- Rural-urban dynamics

- Environmental adaptation
- Regional interactions of ancient civilizations

#### Findings

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

#### **Bio-Fortified Potatoes in India**

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

## **Organ Donation in India**

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

- Family Welfare (MoFWH) at the 15th Organ Donation Day in New Delhi.
- Legal Framework: The Transplantation of This is the India's first organ transplantation Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) 1994 regulate organ transplants and bans commercial trade.
- eliminated • The 2023 revised guidelines the upper age limit and the state domicile requirement for deceased donor registration.
- National Programme: The National Organ Transplant Programme by the MoFWH promotes organ donation via a nationwide coordination network.
- Apex Body: The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, under the MoHFW, establish policies, protocols, and manage the national organ registries.

## **Initiatives for Organ Transplantation**

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

#### Tamil Nadu in Organ Donation

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

- allocation system, ensuring transparency and fairness.
- authority.

#### Free Bus Travel for Women

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

## Kartutva Bhavan (Kartavya Path Project)

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

## **Vizhinjam International Seaport**

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

• Public-private partnership (PPP) mode - It is operated by the Adani Group, with the Kerala government holding the majority stake.

#### • Features:

- The breakwater at Vizhinjam is the deepest in India and stretches nearly three kilometres. It has a natural draft of around 20 metres.
- It also features India's first home-built, AI-powered Vessel Traffic Management System, developed with IIT Madras.
- It is equipped with fully automated yard cranes and remotely operated ship-toshore cranes for faster and safer operations.
- Unlike most Indian ports, Vizhinjam experiences minimal sand movement along the coast (littoral drift), which reduces maintenance costs

## Theme of Independence Day Invitations

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

## Poets in the Indian Independence Struggle

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

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

- Following the Sepoy Mutiny that began in Meerut in 1857, referred to as India's first war of independence, British domination was expressed through folk songs, dramas, and stories.
- In Tamil Nadu, liberation sentiment was carried to the people through Villupattu and street theater arts.
- The 'Swadesamitran' newspaper Mahakavi Bharathiyar worked sowed national sentiment among the people.
- Poet Bharathidasan, dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale, painter Abanindranath Tagore who painted 'Bharat Mata'.
- Poet Allama Iqbal who wrote the song 'Sare Jahan Se Accha'
- Indian film director Dadasaheb Phalke and many others fought for Indian liberation through art.

## Prime Minister Key announcements in his Independence Day Address

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

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

#### **Humayun's Tomb**

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

- Architect: Mirak Mirza Ghiyas, a Persian architect
- Made-in-India semiconductors: India will Style: Persian-Mughal architecture; precursor to the Taj Mahal

#### Structure:

- Double-domed mausoleum
- Set in Charbagh (four-part) gardens
- Features red sandstone with white marble detailing
- UNESCO Status: World Heritage Site (1993)
- Significance:
  - First garden-tomb in India
  - Influenced later Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal
  - Tomb complex includes several smaller monuments for other Mughal royals and nobles

#### **FASTag**

- The National Highways Authority of India, 201a central government agency, on 15, August launched the FASTag travel card facility, which private vehicles can get by paying a fee of Rs 53,000.
  - Under the FASTag annual travel card facility, private vehicles can cross the toll plazas for a year or 200 times by paying a one-time fee of Rs 3,000.
  - Under this facility, the FASTag annual travel card will be activated within 2 hours by paying Rs 3,000 through the Rajmark Yatra app or the National Highways Authority of India website.

#### 100 Years of Kakori Train Action

- On 9th August 1925, Indian revolutionaries carried out the Kakori train action on the Number 8 Down train from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow, aiming to seize British government funds to support the freedom struggle.
- After the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919) and suspension of Non-Cooperation Movement (1922), young nationalists formed Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) (1924) to fund revolutionary activities by seizing British treasury money transported by train.
- It was carried out by revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal, and Chandrashekhar Azad (member of HRA).
- British crackdown after the Kakori robbery led to arrests of many, of whom 17 were jailed, four transported for life and four-Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri were hanged. Kakori proved to be a setback.
- Chandrashekhar Azad was one of the few revolutionaries who managed to escape police charges.

#### **Operation Sadbhavana**

 Indian Army inaugurates 'Arogyam health & wellness centre' in Tawang under Operation Sadbhavana.

#### **About Operation Sadbhavana**

- Launched by: Indian Army in 1998 in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Aim: Apply "healing touch" and Win Hearts and Minds (WHAM) of people affected by terrorism and insurgency.
- Purpose: Extended Army's role from border defence & counter-insurgency to development and community welfare.
- Focus Areas: Education, healthcare, women empowerment, skill development, sports, infrastructure, ecology & environment.

#### India's first fully digitally literate State

- Kerala will officially be declared a fully digitally literate State on August 21.
- Marking the realisation of the first phase of the Digi Kerala project, a grassroots level intervention across all local bodies to bridge the digital divide.

# NATIONAL SCHEMES

## Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

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

## Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

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

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

## Prime Minister's Employment Scheme for Developed India

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

#### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

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

## Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme

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

#### **PM E-DRIVE**

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

**Multidisciplinary Education and Research** • The extension applies to specific categories vehicles. including electric e-ambulances, and e-trucks.

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

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

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

#### **Purpose:**

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

#### **Key Features**

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

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

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

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

#### **Digital India Programme**

- Digital India is a flagship program of the Government of India, launched on July 1, 2015.
- Objective: To transform India into a digitally opening
   empowered society and knowledge economy.
- Digital India is improving the lives of all citizens by providing digital services, expanding the digital economy, and creating job opportunities.
- 50% of the world's real-time financial transactions are processed through India's UPI

#### Make in India Programme

• Launched: September 25, 2014

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

#### **Prime Minister Mudra Scheme**

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

## National Deep Water Exploration Mission

- Prime Minister of India announced the National Deep Water Exploration Mission on the 79th Independence Day to boost offshore oil and gas discovery, targeting areas like the Andaman Sea and deep waters off the Andhra coast to achieve energy self-reliance.
- It is a flagship energy security initiative to explore untapped oil and gas reserves beneath India's seabed.
- It is designed to operate in mission mode for accelerated offshore exploration.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- Supported bv Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and allied research institutions.
- Objective: Reduce import dependence on crude oil and natural gas, boost domestic hydrocarbon production, ensure long-term energy security, and promote Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the energy sector.

#### SWAYAM Portal

- The Ministry of Education is offering free Artificial Intelligence (AI) courses on the Swayam Portal to help students stay updated with the rising demand for AI skills.
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is India's own MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) platform of the Ministry of Education (MoE) initiative and was launched during 2017.
- It seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join 2 the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- It is an indigenously developed IT platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere, at any time.
- All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country, and are available, free of cost, to the residents in India.

#### PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana portal

 The Union government launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana portal on 18, August 2025.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana

- The scheme, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, aims to support the creation of over 3.5 crore jobs in two years.
- The Scheme has two key parts

#### Part A - Support to First-Time Employees:

- It targets first-time employees registered Provident with Employees' Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Incentive: One-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments.
- Eligible Employees: Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh per month.

#### Part B - Incentives for Employers

- Eligibility: Employers will receive incentives in respect of new employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.
- Incentive: Up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employment, sustained for at least six months.

#### PM-POSHAN Scheme

- The PM-POSHAN Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Education.
- Launched In: 2021–22 (replacing the 1995 Midday Meal Scheme)
- It aims to provide one hot cooked meal per school day to 11.20 crore children studying in Balvatikas (pre-primary) and Classes 1 to 8 across 10.36 lakh government and governmentaided schools.
- The scheme addresses twin objectives:
- Enhancing nutritional status of school-going children.

 Improving enrollment, retention. and attendance in schools, especially among disadvantaged children.

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is a primary rural housing scheme of the Indian government.
- It was launched on April 1, 2016, with the aim of providing
- This scheme has been extended until 2028-29. with a target to construct "Housing for All" by 2022, an additional 2 crore houses.

#### Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)

- Launched in 2021, the SBM Urban 2.0 has the target of clearing around 2,400 legacy landfill sites in the country by 2025-2026.
- Legacy waste dumpsites are places that contain solid waste that has been collected and stored for years in an unscientific and uncontrolled manner.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission's "Lakshya Zero **Dumping Site**" initiative aims to remove old waste sites and create "garbage-free cities."

#### Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- This was announced by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2023 with the aim of empowering women.
- Objective: Encouraging women to start small enterprises within their villages.
- Under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, the government aims to train two crore women.

#### **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** scheme

- These Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) was launched on October 21, 2016.
  - Rooted in the Prime Minister's vision that even a common man in slippers should be able to afford air travel
  - It aims to democratize aviation by making flying accessible and affordable for all.
  - Implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, this flagship scheme has since transformed India's regional connectivity landscape.

#### Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme

- India has announced plans for 27% ethanol blending in petrol (E27) by 2030, extending its successful Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme.
- Ethanol, an alcohol derived mainly from sugarcane, maize, and surplus food grains, is blended with petrol to create a cleaner, 101 renewable transport fuel.
- The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme was launched in 2003, beginning with 5% blending.

#### NAMASTE Scheme

- The objective of the "National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem" (NAMASTE) scheme is to formalize and institutionalize the persons engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and promoting safe and mechanized cleaning through trained sanitation workers.
- It is jointly being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)

and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- It is implemented by the National Safai Karmacharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).
- It would be implemented for three years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.
- Target Groups: Sewer and septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) and waste pickers in urban areas of India.

#### **One Nation One Subscription**

- In response to the vision of making India Atmanirbhar and Viksitbharat@2047, the Government of India approved One Nation One Subscription scheme to provide country-wide access to international high impact scholarly research articles and journal publications to students, faculty and researchers of all Higher Education Institutions managed by the central government and state governments and Research & Development Institutions of the central government.
- The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) intends to acquire national licenses for e-journal/database subscriptions from most of the prominent journal publishers.
- ONOS is starting its operation from 1st January 2025. ONOS phase-I has been approved for the calendar years 2025, 2026 and 2027

#### Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)

 Government of India has launched Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), a transformative initiative to drive inclusive and sustainable development in tribal regions

- DAJGUA aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, healthcare, education, and livelihoods through 25 targeted interventions implemented by 17 line ministries.
- By fostering convergence and expanding outreach, the initiative is committed to ensuring holistic development for tribal communities
- From June 15 to July 15, 2025, a nationwide Awareness & Benefit Saturation Campaign for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) awareness, screening, and counseling will also be held in SCD-affected tribal states during this period.

#### Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has officially launched Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan on August 2025
- It was envisaged as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme, aimed at empowering tribal communities, strengthening responsive governance, and creating local leadership opportunities across the country.
- This initiative forms a key part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and contributing towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

#### Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi - an initiative that transforms Anganwadi Centres into vibrant early learning hubs.

- For the first time, Anganwadi workers are being systematically trained in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), focusing on activity-based and play-oriented approaches using local and indigenous materials.
- Budget allocations for teaching-learning materials have also been significantly enhanced, and monthly Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) days have been institutionalised

#### **Aadharshila**

- Ministry has introduced Aadharshila, the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for children aged 3-6 years.
- Aadharshila focuses on the holistic development of children emphasising not only intellectual growth but also emotional, physical, and social well-being.
- It approaches learning through structured play, allowing children to grow and thrive in a nurturing environment.

#### Make in India

- As part of the nation-building efforts, the Prime Minister launched the Make in India initiative in September 2014.
- Designed to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub, Make in India was a timely solution to a critical situation.

#### **PM SVANidhi**

 To improve the situation of street vendors who were severely affected by the lockdown imposed during the Corona pandemic, the Central Government introduced this loan scheme on June 1, 2020.

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Financial Services (DFS) are jointly implementing this scheme.
- While this loan scheme's period ended on December 31, 2024, it has now been extended until March 31, 2030.

#### **Current Status:**

- Under the PM SVANidhi restructuring scheme, the first installment loan limit for street vendors has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000. Similarly, the second installment loan has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000.
- The third installment loan will continue to be provided at Rs. 50,000 as before.
- Street vendors who repay their second loan on time will be eligible to receive a 'RuPay' credit card with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) facility.
- Additionally, vendors who opt for digital transactions in retail and wholesale trade will be provided with incentive amounts up to Rs. 1,600

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
  This scheme was launched on 23rd September,
  2018 in Ranchi to provide accessible and
  affordable healthcare to the common man
- This is the "world's largest government funded healthcare program" targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries.

#### **MGNREGA** scheme

 The MGNREGA scheme was launched with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act being enacted in 2005 (specifically, August 25, 2005) and implemented in phases starting from February 2006, with initial districts being covered in the financial year 2006-07

#### Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana was launched on August 28, 2014, with the objective of expanding financial services to all families in the country.
- This scheme aims to provide every family with at least one bank account, financial awareness, credit, insurance, and pension facilities.
- This represents India's National Financial Inclusion Program. This financial inclusion initiative has completed 11 years by connecting India's unbanked population with formal banking services through systematic policy implementation.

#### **Skill India Mission**

 Government of India launched on 15th July 2015 aimed to train over 400 million individuals by 2022.

#### Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- It was launched in the year 2015 to promote and encourage skill development in India.
- The scheme, overseen by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), provides free short-term training to youth and offers monetary rewards for skill certification

#### Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK)

 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) are physical centers established under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) launched in 2015 to provide skill development training

#### Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

 It was launched in 1967, aims to provide skill training in a non-formal mode at the doorsteps of the beneficiary through registered Societies (NGOs) with 100% grant from the Government of India

#### Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PMYY)

- PM Yuva scheme, officially known as the Prime Minister's Young Authors Mentorship Scheme, was launched in 2021.
- The first edition, YUVA 1.0, was launched in May 2021. YUVA 3.0 was launched on March 11, 2025
- It aims to empower young authors and provide them with mentorship to develop their writing skills and perspectives on various aspects of India

### **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness** for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)

- It was launched on January 19, 2018, by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with the help of the World Bank, and it concluded its implementation period in March 2023.
- The scheme's primary aim was to strengthen the skill development ecosystem in India, focusing institutional mechanisms, on quality assurance, and inclusive training for marginalized groups

#### **MILMEDICON-2025**

- India hosts international meeting on military medicine
- MILMEDICON-2025 International conference on physical and mental trauma in military settings" inaugurated at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- The two-day event has been organised by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).
- Marking the Indian Army's 'Year of Reforms', it is positioned as a strategic initiative to strengthen international cooperation and enhance trauma care in operational settings.

#### Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

• Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in India in 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The program aims to provide universal elementary education to all children in the 6 to 14 age group

#### **SACHET App**

- A mobile application that warns fishermen during storm periods is set to be implemented on a trial basis.
- A conference on various maritime hazardous operations in Indian coastal areas was held in Chennai.
- This application has been developed in such a way that even if fishermen keep their

mobile phones on silent mode, it will generate warning sounds about storms and other natural disasters.

To receive all types of weather warnings, the
 National Disaster Management Authority's
 SACHET application or

#### Samudra App

 Developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

#### **BioCARe programme**

- Department of Biotechnology's (DBT) BioCARe programme was launched in 2011 to support and advance women in biotechnology research, providing them with their first extramural research grant, particularly after career breaks.
- The programme aims to encourage women to re-enter the scientific mainstream and secure independent research funding and a launchpad for their careers in science

#### Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana

- to provide financial assistance to one woman from every family in the State to start a business of her choice.
- Under the scheme, a woman from every family would be provided □10,000 as the first instalment.

## **REPORTS & INDICES**

#### **Household Consumption Expenditure** Survey

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

#### India Justice Report (IJR)

- Covers justice, police, prison, and legal services. The data is based on parameters such as budget allocations bsy central and state 20 governments, human resources, workload, and infrastructure.
- Released by Tata Trusts in collaboration with various civil society organizations and data partners.
- This report highlights shortcomings departments the government and improvements needed.
- In this report, Karnataka ranks first overall, with a score of 6.78 out of 10 in all four sectors. However:
- Police: Karnataka ranks third, Telangana first, and Tamil Nadu 13th.

- Prisons: Tamil Nadu first, Karnataka second, Kerala third.
- Justice Delivery: Kerala first, Telangana second, Tamil Nadu third.
- **Legal Services**: Karnataka first, Punjab second, Haryana third, Tamil Nadu 16th.

#### Rethinking Homestays: Navigating **Policy Pathways Report**

- NITI Aayog released the report "Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways" on 22 August 2025 in collaboration with IAMAI.
- The report aims to provide a strategic roadmap for strengthening India's homestay and BnB (Bed and Breakfasts) sectors.
- It is a policy-oriented document highlighting opportunities and challenges in India's homestay ecosystem.

#### UDISE+ 2024-25 Report

- In the academic year 2024-25, for the first time in the country, the number of school teachers has crossed 1 crore, as revealed by data from the Ministry of Education.
- Improvement in Student-Teacher Ratio: The National Education Policy recommends that schools should have one teacher for every 30 students.
- This leads to benefits in education such as providing additional attention to each student, strengthening interaction between teachers and students, contributing to enhanced learning experiences, and improving teaching effectiveness.

#### In Tamil Nadu

 Tamil Nadu has one teacher for every 23 students. The number of single-teacher schools has decreased by approximately 6 percent.

- Similarly, the number of schools with no student enrollment has also declined by approximately 38 percent.
- In the academic year 2024-25, the student dropout rate has decreased significantly.

#### National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025

- Safest cities:
- Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kohima,
   Bhubaneswar, Ai-zawl, Gangtok, and Itanagar
   were ranked among top colleges
- Unsafe/not safe:
- Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar and Ranchi
- Overall, six in 10 women surveyed felt "safe" in their city, but 40% still considered themselves "not so safe" or "unsafe".

#### Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023-24

Tamil Nadu was the top State in terms of the number of factories and people employed in the manufacturing sector, according to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023-24, released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

#### According to the survey

- Tamil Nadu was third in Fixed Capital (8.09%),
   Output (10.11%), and Gross Value Added (10.26%).
- Tamil Nadu was home to 15.43% of the factories across the country, followed by Gujarat.
- Tamil Nadu accounting for 15.24% in terms of number of people were employed in factories across the country followed by Gujarat
- Tamil Nadu remained as the talent capital as well as the manufacturing capital of India.

### COMMITTEES

## Tamil Nadu State Education Policy for School Education

 As an alternative to the Central Government's New National Education Policy 2020, a 14-member committee headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice D.Murugesan was formed in 2022 to design a specific education policy for Tamil Nadu

- This report was submitted to the Tamil Nadu Government on July 1, 2024
- The state education policy report has been divided separately into higher education and school education.

## **AWARDS & HONOURS**

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

- Anewinternationalawardin Dr. Swaminathan's. name for Food and Peace will be launched to honour scientists from developing nations (Global South).
- The award will be jointly instituted by the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation and the World Academy of Sciences.
- It carries a cash prize of USD 25,000 (approx. Rs.20.75 lakh).
- Indian Prime Minister will present the first the M.S. Swaminathan's award during centenary event.

#### 71st National Film Awards

- Best Feature Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Sudipto Sen (The Kerala Story, Hindi)
- Best Popular Film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani - Karan Johar
- Best Debut Film of a Director Ashish Bende - Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)
- Best Film on Social/Environmental Values Sam Bahadur
- Best Children's Film Naal 2 (Marathi) Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti
- Best Animated/Visual Effects/Gaming Film -Hanu-Man (Telugu)
- Best Actor (Male)- Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- Best Actor (Female) Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)

- Best Supporting Actor (Male) Vijayaraghavan (Pookkaalam - Malayalam), M.S. Bhaskar (Parking - Tamil)
- Best Supporting Actor (Female) Urvashi (Ullozhukku - Malavalam), Janki Bodiwala (Vash - Gujarati)
- Best Music Direction G.V. Prakash Kumar (Vaathi - Tamil) Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal - Hindi)
- Best Playback Singer (Male) PVNS Rohit -"Premisthunna" (Baby - Telugu)
- Best Playback Singer (Female) Shilpa Rao -"Chaleya" (Jawan - Hindi)
- Best Cinematography Prasantanu Mohapatra (The Kerala Story)
- Best Editing Midhun Murali (Pookkaalam)
- Best Production Design Mohandas (2018: Everyone is a Hero - Malayalam)
- Best Sound Design Sachin Sudhakaran & Hariharan Muralidharan (Animal)
- Best Choreography Vaibhavi Merchant Rani (Rocky Aur Kii Prem Kahaani-"Dhindhora Baje Re")
- Best Action Direction Nandu Prudhvi (Hanu-Man)
- Best Make Up & Costume -Sam Bahadur
- Best Screenplay Sai Rajesh Neelam (Baby -Telugu)
- Best Dialogue Deepak Kingrani (Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai)
  - Best Non-Feature Film Flowering Man (Hindi)
- Best Documentary God, Vulture and Human
- Best Director (Non-Feature) Piyush Thakur - The First Film

• Best Script (Short Film) - Sunflowers were the First Ones to Know - Chidananda Navak (Kannada)

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

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

#### **Awards**

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

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

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

#### Independence Day Award List

- Best Municipal Corporations:
  - Avadi
  - Namakkal
- Best Municipalities:
  - Rameswaram
  - Rajapalayam
  - Perambalur

#### **'Equator Prize'**

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

#### Chief Minister's Award for bestperforming local bodies

It was presented to Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar and

Adyar zones under the Greater Chennai Corporation.

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

#### **Police Medals**

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

#### **Armed Forces Medals**

- 167 armed personnel awarded for gallantry.
- Across India, 1.090 medals announced for police, fire service, home guards, and correctional services.
- Tamil Nadu: 32 recipients.
- Operation Sindoor: 18 border security personnel received gallantry awards.
- Awards: Kirti Chakra-4, Veer Chakra-15

#### 'Takaisal Tamilar'

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

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

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

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

#### Kalpana Chawla Award - Tulasimathi Murugesan

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

#### **Good Governance Awards**

- The Chief Minister's Good Governance Award is given to officers and officials who have implemented projects in government departments through unique ideas and initiatives.
- For rural development initiatives bring about change through community participation
- Since 2 Tirunelveli district Assistant Superintendent of Police V.Prasannakumar, Taluk Officer P.Ya. Lakrishnan, Block Development Officer V. Yamuna

#### **Government Departments**

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

for the welfare of the differently-abled:

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

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

#### **State Youth Award**

- The Chief Minister's State Youth Awards are given annually to three young men and three women who are involved in various social works in the state.
  - Paralympic athlete Mariyappan
  - Carrom player Kazima
  - Villupuram district Chandurukumar
  - Tirunelveli district M. Jayakumar
  - Pudukkottai district A. Lavanya
  - Krishnagiri district Ku. Gouri

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

- He is a father of India's Green Revolution.
- Dr. Swaminathan was instrumental in ending food insecurity in India and ensuring equitable nutrition.
- To mark the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, an international conference will be held in Delhi from August 7 to 9.
- Theme of the conference: "Sustainable Green Revolution - A Life in Harmony with Nature."
- Organised by: M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- Commemorative Releases:
  - Postage stamp and coin featuring Dr.Swaminathan.
  - A tribute book titled "Book of Tributes" compiled by The Hindu Group.

#### M.S. Swaminathan

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

#### 200th birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule

 Prime Minister of India announced a yearlong series of events to mark the 200th birth

anniversary of Jyotiba Phule, celebrating his legacy in social reform, women's empowerment, and caste equality.

 Ivotirao Govindrao Phule was born on 11 April 1827 in Satara, now in Maharashtra.

#### Contributions in Social Reform & Freedom Movement

- Women's Education Pioneer
  - Opened India's first school for girls (1848) in Pune.
  - Educated his wife, Savitribai Phule, who became India's first female teacher.

#### Caste Equality Champion

- Founded Satyashodhak Samaj (1873) to promote social justice, oppose Brahmanical dominance. and unite oppressed communities.
- Opened his well to all castes, symbolising social inclusivity.

#### Abolition of Social Evils

- Opposed child marriage and supported widow remarriage.
- Established shelters for widows and orphaned children.

#### Advocate of Rights through Literature

 Authored Gulamgiri (Slavery, drawing parallels between caste oppression in India and racial slavery in America.

#### Influence on Later Leaders

• Inspired B.R. Ambedkar and several anticaste and social justice movements in India.

#### Sri Aurobindo

 Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Sri Aurobindo on his birth anniversary (15 August 1872), highlighting his role as a philosopher, spiritual leader, and freedom fighter who linked nation-building with spiritual evolution.

#### Contribution to Freedom Movement:

- Radical Nationalism First Indian leader to demand complete independence through his paper Bande Mataram.
- Revolutionary Role Member of Anushilan Samiti and involved in armed resistance against British rule.
- Alipore Bomb Case (1908) Arrested but acquitted and transformed spiritually during imprisonment.
- Advocated direct action over moderate politics.

#### Literary Contributions:

- Philosophical Works The Life Divine, the Synthesis of Yoga, Essays on the Gita.
- Poetry and Epics Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol.

 Political and Cultural Writings – The Human Cycle, The Ideal of Human Unity

#### **Durgabai Deshmukh**

- Durgabai Deshmukh was a prominent freedom fighter, social reformer, and advocate for women's rights.
- She established Andhra Mahila Sabha in 1937 to promote education and welfare for women in Andhra Pradesh.
- The organization focused on empowering women through education, vocational training, and healthcare services.
- Durgabai Deshmukh was also instrumental in setting up several institutions for social welfare and development, such as hospitals and educational centers.

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# **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **World Hepatitis Day 2025**

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

#### **International Tiger Day**

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

#### 11th National Handloom Day

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

#### **Historical Significance**

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

- Handlooms became a symbol of resistance and self-reliance during India's independence struggle.
- It promoted Indian crafts, languages, arts, and local artisans.

#### **Indian Organ Donation Day -August 6**

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

#### **World Tribal Day**

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

#### International Traffic Signal Day

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

#### **World Lion Day**

- World Lion Day is observed on August 10 to raise awareness about lion conservation and 
   their protection.
- India's ongoing "Project Lion @2047" aims to secure and manage the growing lion population in the Saurashtra region long term.
- Project Lion: Launched in 2020 & aim to secure Asiatic lions through habitat improvement and advanced monitoring with radio-collars and cameras.

#### **World Biofuel Day**

- World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 every year in honor of Sir Rudolf Diesel.
- In 1893, he operated the first engine using peanut oil, laying the foundation for modern biofuels.
- **Theme for 2025 Biofuels**: A Sustainable Pathway to Net Zero'.

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

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

#### **Historical Background**

- In 1942, against British rule, the Quit India Movement was launched by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, with the unparalleled slogan "Do or Die."
- This gave a new impetus to the country's freedom struggle.
- In the history of India's freedom struggle, the Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi against British rule is a major milestone.
- On August 8, 1942, the resolution for this movement was passed at the Mumbai

Congress session. Responding to Gandhi's call, the struggle began on August 9.

- Under Congress leadership, countless Indians took to the streets and wrote an unforgettable chapter in history.
- Later, in the early hours of August 9, all major Congress leaders were arrested and imprisoned.
- Until May 6, 1944, Mahatma Gandhi was kept under house arrest at Aga Khan Palace. Nehru, Patel, Azad, and others were taken to Ahmedabad Fort Prison and held there until March 28, 1945. From 1921 to 1945, this was the 9th time Nehru was imprisoned, having spent 7 a total of 9 years in jail.
- While imprisoned in Ahmedabad for participating in the Quit India Movement, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote the book The Discovery of India.

#### **World Elephant Day**

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

#### August 12 - National Library Day

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

#### **World Photography Day 2025**

- Every year on August 19, the world celebrates World Photography Day, a global tribute to > the art, science, and impact of photography.
- The 2025 theme is "My Favorite Photo".
- The book "M.S. Swaminathan: The Man who Fed India", authored by Priyambada Jayakumar, is a biography of the renowned agricultural scientist.

#### **World Humanitarian Day 2025**

- Date: Observed annually on August 19.
- Theme 2025: "Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities"

#### **World Senior Citizens' Day 2025**

- World Senior Citizens' Day is observed every year on August 21.
- The 2025 Theme: "Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future"

### August 20 - Maveeran Ondiveeran **Memorial Day**

- In South Tamil Nadu, among the brave warriors who fought against the British as Poligars and laid down their lives, the valiant Ondiveeran stands great.
- As the army commander of Puli Thevar of the Palayamkottai, Ondiveeran fought against the foreigners, serving as both the protector of his

king and the guardian deity of his land and people.

#### **August 23 - National Space Day**

2025 Theme: "From Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom Boundless Possibilities."

#### August 22 - Chennai Day

This is celebrated every year on August 22, which is the widely accepted date when East India Company factors Andrew Cogan and Francis Day purchased the village of Madraspatnam or Chennapatnam Damarla Venkatadri Nayakar, who was the Viceroy of the Vijayanagara Empire, on August 22, 1639.

#### National Space Day - August 23

- India marks National Space Day on August 23, 2025, celebrating Chandrayaan-3's landing and the nation's space achievements from Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan.
- The theme for 2025 is "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".

#### **Women's Equality Day 2025**

- Observed annually on August 26 in the United States.
- Marks the certification of the 19th Amendment granting American women constitutional right to vote.

## DEFENCE

#### Army Institute of Law (AIL)

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

#### **Exercise Yudh Abhyas**

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

#### 'Agni-5' missile

- The Agni-5 ballistic missile, which can hit targets at a distance of 5,000 km, has been successfully test-fired.
- The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range in Chandigarh, Odisha.
- The missile SShas a range of up to 350 km, including northern China, and parts of Asia and Europe.
- Last month, India successfully tested the Prithvi-II, which can carry a warhead of 500 kg and can hit targets at a distance of up to 350 km, the Agni-1, which can carry a warhead of 1,000 kg and can hit targets at a distance of 700

to 900 km, and the Pralay, which can carry a warhead of 500 to 1,000 kg.

#### Country's First 'Al' Unmanned Combat Aircraft

- India's first artificial intelligence (AI) technology-equipped unmanned combat aircraft, completely developed indigenously, was displayed at a press meet held in Bengaluru, Karnataka state.
- This unmanned combat aircraft has the capability to fly for long durations at medium altitude in the sky.

## Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)

- Context: DRDO successfully flight-tests
   Integrated Air Defence Weapon System
   (IADWS) on August 23, 2025.
- IADWS is a fully indigenous integrated air defence system designed to protect critical assets and strategic locations from diverse aerial threats such as aircraft, drones, and missiles. It consists of,
  - Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM): Designed for neutralizing high-speed targets at medium ranges.
  - Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile: A shoulder-fired missile for close-range, low-altitude threats.
  - Directed Energy Weapon (DEW): A highenergy laser weapon capable of destroying drones with precision.

#### **Hydrogen Train**

• For the first time in the country, a hydrogen train engine and 8 coaches manufactured by

the Chennai Integrated Coach Manufacturing Company (ICF) were transported to the state of Haryana.

- In order to transform rail transport in accordance with environmental protection, it was planned to manufacture a hydrogen train engine and coaches on behalf of the Northern Railway Zone.
- Accordingly, the work to manufacture a hydrogen engine at a cost of Rs. 80 crore was handed over to the ICF company in Chennai

#### **Exercise Maitree 2025**

- 14th edition of India-Thailand Exercise Maitree.
- To be held from 1–14 September 2025.
- To enhance counter-terrorism operational capabilities in semi-urban & jungle terrain under UN mandate.
- Started in 2006 as an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army & Royal Thai Army.

#### 'Sudarshan Chakram' Air Defence System Shield

 The Sudarshana Chakram project will be implemented within the next 10 years to protect the country from any threat.

#### **About SSudarshana Chakram:**

- India's new air defence system is being developed under the Sudarshana Chakram project, announced in the Prime Minister's Independence Day speech.
- This system will help protect the country's important and national security centers. It is

an integrated combination of sensors, missiles, surveillance devices, and artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

 Through this, it will be possible to repel enemy attacks and also carry out precise counterattacks.

#### Need

- A high level of coordination is required for the successful implementation of this project.
- Information coming from various sectors will be analyzed in real time and a very accurate security system will be created.
- Information from all security platforms on land, air, sea and underwater will be integrated.
- The project will use cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, data analytics, and quantum technology.
- The project will be fully completed by 2035

#### BrahMos missile

- BrahMos is long-range supersonic cruise missile.
- It was first successfully test-fired on June 12, 2001.
- The missile system was developed as a joint venture between India and Russia. It is named after India's Brahmaputra River and Russia's Moskva River.

#### INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri

 Indian Navy is set to commission the latest state of the art Project 17A multi-mission stealth frigates Udaygiri and Himgiri at Naval Base, Visakhapatnam.

#### **About INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri**

- Udaygiri, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
   Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai, and Himgiri, constructed
   by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
   (GRSE), Kolkata, showcase the nation's
- growing shipbuilding prowess, as well as, the synergy between India's premier defence shipyards.
- Both frigates were designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

# BOOKS & AUTHORS

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

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

#### Manodhidam Novel

- 'Manodhidam' novel is about the great famine that occurred in Gujarat one hundred and twenty-five years ago.
- It was written by Gujarati writer and Jnanpith Award winner Pannalal Patel.
- This novel published in 1947 has been translated into Tamil by N. Subramanian.

- An Ancient Bond: The Elephant Whisperers of Mudumalai by Tarsh Thekaekara.
- The Lost Elephant and the Soul Tree by Akila Kannadasan.

#### Books written by late former Minister Raghumankhan

- 'Journey of Justice'
- Silent Sleeping Dewdrops
- Unknown Taj Mahals of the World
- Flowers... Blooming Autumn Season
- Stars That Don't Look at the Sky
- Thunder in Legislative Assembly speeches

#### **Novels by Writer Su. Venugopal**

- Nunveli Grahanangal (Micro-space Eclipses)
- Koondappanai
- Valasai (Migration)
- Aattam (Game/Performance)
- Nilam Ennum Nallaal (The Good Woman Called Earth)
- He has also written more than twenty books including short stories and essays.

#### Book

- 'Human Rights' V. Pazhani
- Godhanam Novel Premchand

# SPORTS & GAMES

#### International Wiesław Maniak Memorial Meet

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

#### **Indian Sailing Federation**

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

#### **Asian Surfing Championship**

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

#### **Asian U-19 Boxing**

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

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

#### Women's Bronze Medalists:

- Yashika 51kg.
- Akanksha Balaswal 70kg.

#### Men's Gold Medalist:

- Rahul Kundu 75kg.
- Men's Silver Medalists:
  - Hemant Sangwan 80kg.
  - Mausam Suhag 65kg.
- Men's Bronze Medalists:
  - Shivam 55kg.
- Gaurav 85kg.

#### Asian **U22** Boxing **Championship** (Thailand)

- Gold Medal
  - Rithika (India) women's 80 + kg
- Silver Medals
  - Yathri Patel women's 57 kg
  - Priya women's 60 kg
- Bronze Medals
  - Neeraj men's 75 kg
  - Ishan Kadaria men's 90+ kg

#### Overall Performance

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

#### **World Masters Swimming Championship**

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

#### **Athletics**

 India's Ankita Dhyan won the gold medal in the women's 2,000-meter steeplechase at the **(1)** Asian Shooting Championship Competition international athletics championships held in Israel. She also created a new national record.

#### **World Table Tennis**

 India's G. Sathiyan won the champion's trophy at the World Table Tennis Feeder Series held in Laos.

#### Chennai Grand Masters Chess **Tournament**

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

#### **Asian Shooting Championship**

- Asian Shooting Championship held in Kazakhstan
- Winners
  - Senior Category Manu Bhaker (India) -Bronze Medal
  - Junior Category Rashmika Sagal (India) - Gold Medal

#### **Asian Shooting Championships -**Shymkent, Kazakhstan

- In the skeet final for the men's India's Anantjeet Naruka - Gold
- 10m Air Pistol Mixed Teams India's Sruchi Inder Singh, Saurabh Chaudhary pair - Bronze
- Junior 10m Air Pistol Mixed Teams India's Vanshika Chaudhary, Kavin Antoshi pair **Bronze**

#### **World Wrestling Championship Competitions**

Venue: Bulgaria, Samokou

- U-20 World Wrestling
  - Kajal, Tapasya Gold

- Venue: Shimkent, Kazakhstan
- Yashas Virathore, India Silver
- Iunior Women's Skeet India
  - Mansi Raghvanshi Gold
  - Yashaswi Rathor Silver
- Men's Skeet India
  - Harmeet Singh Silver
  - Jyotiraditya Bronze
- 10m Air Rifle Men's India
  - Himanshu Thalan, Ab0hinav Shah, Naren Pranav - Gold
- 10m Air Rifle Junior Men's Individual India
  - Abhinay Shah Gold
- 10m Air Rifle Men's India
  - · Arjun Babuta, Rudransh Patil, Kiran Ankushyaadav - Gold
- India ranks first in the medal table with a total 201 of 26 medals including 14 gold and 6 silver.

#### 16th Asian Shooting Championship

- Venue: Shymkent, Kazakhstan
- Women's 10m Air Rifle India
  - Elavenil Valarivan Gold
- Junior Women's Air Rifle India
  - Shambhavi, Hridaya, Isha Anil Team -Gold

#### Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025

 The Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025 took place from August 21-23 at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

• First consolidated national-level water sports festival under Khelo India; builds on Gulmarg Winter Games legacy.

Rank	State/UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Madhya Pradesh	10	3	5	18
2	Odisha	4	5	1	10
3	Kerala	3	1	3	7
4	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	1	3
5	Delhi	1	2	0	3
6	Punjab	1	2	0	3
7	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	1	3
8	Maharashtra	1	1	0	2
9	West Bengal	1	0	0	1
10	Uttarakhand	0	4	4	8

#### 16th Asian Shooting Championship

- Venue: Shymkent, Kazakhstan
- · Gold Medal (Individual and Team Both Categories)
  - India Sift Kaur Samra Gold
- Senior Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
- Team India's Anish, Adarsh Singh, Neeraj Kumar - Bronze
- Team India's Sift Kaur, Aasi Suchi, Anjum Mutgil - Champion

#### India's Performance at the Asian **Shooting Championship**

- Anish Banwala Silver Medal
- In the 50 Meter Pistol Junior Men's Team category, India's team consisting of Abhinav

Chaudhari, Umesh Chaudhari, and Mukesh Nelavalli - Gold

 In the Trap Junior Mixed Team category, India's partnership of Arvavansh Tyagi/Pavva Tripathi - Silver

#### 16th Asian Shooting Championship

- Venue: Shymkent, Kazakhstan
- India's Performance at the Asian Shooting Championship:

### 25m Standard Pistol Men's Individual Category - India

- Gurpreet Singh Gold
- Amanpreet Singh Silver

#### Team Category - Indian Team

 Gurpreet, Amanpreet, Harsh Gupta team -Gold

#### **Current Medal Standings**

 India currently dominates the medal tally with 82 medals - 44 Gold, 20 Silver, and 18 Bronze.

#### At the Asian Shooting Championship held in Kazakhstan

- India finished with 103 medals across three categories - Senior, Junior, and Youth - winning 52 gold, 26 silver, and 25 bronze medals.
- In the Senior category alone, India secured first place with 31 medals - 14 gold, 8 silver, and 9 bronze.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### "July Declaration"

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

#### **Eighty years on from Hiroshima**

- August 2025 marks 80 years since the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The Nihon Hidankyo, an organization formed by the survivors, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024, reflecting their long-standing 20 efforts towards disarmament.
- India's Nuclear Doctrine: India follows a 'No First Use' nuclear doctrine.
- Quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "The atomic bomb has deadened the finest feeling that has sustained mankind for ages."

#### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

• It is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia. China, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- **Members:** China. India. Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in 2025 will be held in Tianjin, China.

#### **SheLeads Programme**

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

#### **About SheLeads Programme**

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

#### **About UN Women**

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

#### World Trade Organization (WTO)

 Brazil has filed a formal dispute with the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the \_\_\_ Encouraging recycling and reuse to minimise United States' decision to impose a 50% tariff on its imports.

#### **About World Trade Organization (WTO)**

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

#### **Global Plastic Treaty**

- The Global Plastic Treaty is an international initiative launched under the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2022 to address the escalating issue of plastic pollution.
- It aims to establish legally binding measures for managing the entire lifecycle of plastics, including their production, usage, recycling, and disposal.
- The treaty focuses on:

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

#### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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

#### **UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT)**

- The UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1984, and came into force on June 26, 1987.
- It aims to prevent torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment worldwide.

#### International Atomic Energy Agency

- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
- Founded: 29 July 1957
- About : The International Atomic Energy Agency is an intergovernmental organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

#### 'Bright Star' Joint Exercise - Egypt

- More than 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces will participate in the Bright Star joint exercise to be held in Egypt.
- It has been stated that the participation of Indian Armed Forces in this exercise demonstrates India's emphasis on regional peace, stability, security, and enhancing cooperation with friendly nations.

#### India – Japan -MOC

 India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with Tokyo on a first-of-its kind Joint 201 Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

#### Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

• The JCM is a Japanese initiative, whereby the country implements and invests in lowcarbon technologies in developing countries and the resulting savings in emissions are credited to Japan's account as carbon credits, which it can use to meet its national emis-sions-reduction targets.

The JCM will encourage the flow of investment, technology assistance, including technology transfer and capacity building support for the implementation of projects involving these low carbon technologies. It will also develop domestic ecosystem and partnerships to localise low carbon technologies and associated high technology interventions related to equipment, machinery, products, systems and infrastructure, paving the way for their large scale deployment

#### **Amnesty International**

 Amnesty International was founded in 1961 to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, ensuring everyone lives with dignity, equality, and freedom, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.