

# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

**DECEMBER 2025**



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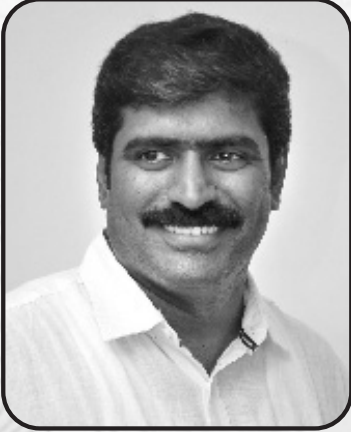
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# Preface



**M. SHUNMUGAM**

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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

Published by:

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# SCIENCE

## GENERAL SCIENCE

### Nuzolvence (zolidodacin) and Blujepa (gepotidacin)

- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has approved two new oral medicines for the treatment of gonorrhoea - Nuzolvence (zolidodacin) and Blujepa (gepotidacin).
- Gonorrhoea is a **common sexually transmitted infection (STI)**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has classified the gonorrhoea-causing bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* as a “high-priority” pathogen.

### Rabies in India

- Approximately 20,000 of the 59,000 annual rabies deaths worldwide occur in India.
- **Main Source:** stray dogs; approximately 20 million dog bite incidents are reported every year.
- **Dog population control:** The method of catching, sterilizing, vaccinating, and releasing dogs (CNVR) is hampered by the high dog breeding rate (~40%).

### Rabies

- **Cause:** Rabies virus (**Lyssavirus, Rhabdoviridae**) that affects the central nervous system.
- **Mortality rate:** 100% once symptoms of the disease appear.
- **Mode of transmission:** Primarily through dog bites.
- **Prevention:** 100% preventable through **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**.

- Wound washing, complete rabies vaccination series, RIG/monoclonal antibodies for severe bites.
- **Global target:** The World Health Organization, using a **One Health approach**, aims to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

### India's initiatives to control rabies:

- National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) 2012 - 2017
- Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) 2019
- National Health Mission (NHM) 2013

### Invasive mosquito species threatens

### India's 2030 malaria elimination goal

- The spread of the invasive *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito poses a serious threat to **India's malaria elimination target for 2030**.
- **Anopheles stephensi** has transformed **urban malaria** into a national public health challenge.
- India has set a goal to eliminate malaria by 2030, with an **interim target of zero indigenous cases by 2027**, in line with WHO guidelines.
- Malaria cases declined from **11.7 lakh in 2015 to 2.27 lakh in 2024**.
- Malaria-related deaths have **decreased by 78%** during the same period.
- India has largely entered the **pre-elimination phase of malaria**.

### *Anopheles stephensi*

- It thrives in urban environments and breeds in artificial water containers such as tanks and tyres.
- It is an efficient vector of **Plasmodium falciparum** and **Plasmodium vivax**.

## LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Aircraft Hansa-3 NG

- The Union Minister for Science & Technology launched **India's first indigenous production-version pilot trainer aircraft Hansa-3 NG** at CSIR-NAL, Bengaluru.
- Hansa-3 NG is a two-seater, next-generation, all-composite trainer aircraft designed for **Private Pilot Licence (PPL)** and **Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)** training.
- It is the first fully indigenous trainer aircraft ready for serial production in India's civil aviation ecosystem.
- **Developed by:** Designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru.
- CSIR-NAL is also developing the **SARAS Mk-2**, a 19-seater Light Transport Aircraft for both civilian and military use.
- It is the first Indian multi-purpose civilian aircraft in the light transport aircraft category.

### India's First Private Navigation Centre

- **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan** inaugurated the **Ananth Centre of Excellence for Navigation (ACEN)** in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ACEN is **India's first private-sector navigation innovation centre**, set up by Ananth Technologies.
- The centre strengthens India's push for indigenous, secure and self-reliant navigation systems.
- Navigation tech is crucial for missiles, aircraft, ships, satellites and modern defence systems.

- ACEN supports India's Vision 2035 for comprehensive self-reliance in navigation across defence, space, and civilian sectors.
- The initiative strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by reducing imports and building trusted home-grown navigation systems.

### India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel

- India launched its **first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell-powered passenger vessel** into commercial service in Varanasi, marking a breakthrough in green inland water transport.
- It is a 24-metre hydrogen fuel cell-powered AC catamaran crafted for **zero-emission passenger movement**, ensuring clean mobility on inland waterways.
- **Developed by:** Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), showcasing indigenous excellence in clean marine engineering.

### DHRUV64

- It's the **country's first indigenous 1.0 GHz, 64 bit dual core microprocessor**
- Developed by the **Centre for Development of Advance computing (C-DAC)**
- Reducing dependence on foreign chipmakers for strategic and commercial technologies
- Supports application in **5G, Automotive, Defence and IoT**
- India consumes **about 20%** of the world microprocessors.

### AI based Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme.

- India's first **AI-driven community screening programme for Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)**.

- Aim: To reduce **blindness due to diabetes** through early diagnosis.
- The initiative uses MadhuNetrAI, an AI platform, to enable early detection and referral of diabetic eye disease at the community level.
- It is a collaborative effort of the Armed Forces Medical Services and the eHealth AI Unit of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Pilot programme will cover seven different locations: Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Dharamshala, Gaya, Jorhat and Kochi.

### **CSIR-CFTRI Advances in Annatto Research**

- CSIR-CFTRI (Central Food Technological Research Institute), Mysore, has achieved significant progress in annatto research and technological development.

#### **Annatto**

- Annatto is a **natural coloring agent** widely used in food processing.
- According to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Annatto plant is moderately drought-tolerant and requires relatively little water.

### **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**

- CSIR is India's largest research and development (R&D) organization.
- Established: September 1942
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Director General of CSIR – **N. Kalaiselvi**

### **PARAM Rudra Supercomputer**

- Bihar's first PARAM Rudra supercomputer has been inaugurated at IIT Patna.
- The project aims to develop indigenous high-performance computing (HPC) capabilities.
- It strengthens advanced research and computing infrastructure in Eastern India.
- Supercomputing capacity is measured in **petaflops**.
- Under the **National Supercomputing Mission**, India has a total capacity of approximately 39 **petaflops**.
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) is the nodal ministry for the National Supercomputing Mission.

#### **Major Indian Supercomputers**

- AIRAWAT – Artificial Intelligence Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform (PSAI).
- PARAM Siddhi-AI
- Pratyush – Cray XC40 supercomputer.
- Mihir – Cray XC40 supercomputer.

### **Alaknanda Galaxy**

- **Context:** Indian astronomers, using **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** data, have discovered a very old and well-formed spiral galaxy named **Alaknanda**, which formed just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang.

### **SPACE**

#### **Drogué parachute tests successfully conducted**

- A series of qualification tests for drogué parachutes, which have been carried out to develop a deceleration system for the **ISRO's Gaganyaan crew module**, were successful.

- Location: These tests were completed at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh.**

- **Purpose:** crucial component of this system is the deployment of drogue parachutes, which play a pivotal role in stabilising the crew module and reducing its velocity **to a safe level during re-entry.**

### **Gaganyaan Mission**

- **Aim:** The Gaganyaan Mission is India's ambitious **human spaceflight program**, aimed at sending Indian astronauts to space.
- The Gaganyaan Mission is India's ongoing project to send a **3-day manned mission to the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) of 400 km** with a crew of 3 members.
- **Mission Objectives**
  - To demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flights.
  - Foundation for a sustained Indian human space exploration programme.
  - Gaganyaan also encourages and supports micro-gravity experiments.

### **Bengaluru Firm Starts Ground Testing of Electric Flying Taxi**

- Bengaluru-based **Sarla Aviation** has started ground testing of its half-scale eVTOL demonstrator **SYLLA SYL-X1.**
- Tests were conducted at the company's **Bengaluru test facility.**
- Sarla Aviation's flagship project is a **six-seater electric flying taxi**, aimed at **reducing commute times** in congested Indian cities such as **Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune.**

### **ISRO Successfully Launches BlueBird Block-2 Satellite**

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) placed the BlueBird Block-2 satellite in a **low earth orbit (LEO).**

- The Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) lifted off from the second launch pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.**

- **The ISRO accomplished two milestones with this mission**

- It was able to deploy the largest commercial communications satellite in a low earth orbit.

- The BlueBird Block-2 satellite, weighing 6,100 kg, became the heaviest payload to be launched by **LVM3 from Indian soil.**

- **"LVM3 Bahubali rocket M6** launch vehicle has successfully and precisely injected the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite in the intended orbit.

- This is the first dedicated commercial launch for a customer from the U.S.

- BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite: **Developed by AST SpaceMobile in the U.S.,** is part of the next generation of communication satellites, designed to provide space-based cellular broadband connectivity directly to standard mobile smartphones.

- **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan.**

### **ISRO's commercial achievement**

- Since 1993, 434 satellites from **34 countries** have been launched.

- Commercial activities are carried out through **New Space India Limited**

### LVM-3 rocket capabilities

- A state-of-the-art rocket designed for **launching heavy satellites**.
- It can place satellites weighing 8,000 kg in **low Earth orbit** and satellites weighing more than 4,000 kg in **geostationary orbit**.

### LVM-3 key missions

2017	GSAT-19 (First success)
2019	Chandrayaan-2 (3,850 kg)
October 2022	OneWeb 36 satellites
March 2023	OneWeb 36 satellites
2023	Chandrayaan-3
November 2024	CMS-3 (4,400 kg)
December 2025	Bluebird-6 (6,100 kg)

### The rocket manufacturing journey begins

- In 1980, the **35-kilogram Rohini (RS-1)** experimental satellite was successfully launched using the **SLV-3 rocket**.

### Evolution



### Gaganyaan project

- This is India's plan to **send humans into space**.
- It has been decided to implement this using the **LVM-3 rocket**.
- The astronauts will conduct research for **3 days in an orbit 400 km** above the Earth.
- Afterwards, they will be safely brought back to Earth using the same spacecraft.

### Vyomitra Mission

- Before sending humans into space through the Gaganyaan mission, ISRO is preparing to send a female-looking robot **named 'Vyomitra'** into space using the **LVM-3 rocket**.
- If the Vyomitra test is successful, the astronauts selected for the Gaganyaan mission will be sent into space in the next phase.
- This will place India alongside the **United States, Russia, and China**, which have already sent their own astronauts into space.
- Indian Space Station 2035
- ISRO is also planning to establish its own space station in the future. The LVM-3 rocket is preparing to carry the aspirations for this project, which has been named the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (Indian Space Station)**.

### Peggy Whitson

- Peggy Whitson was one of the four people who travelled to the **International Space Station through Axiom Space**.
- She served as the commander of the private company's second mission (Axiom 2) to send humans to the space station.
- She holds the record for spending the **most days (665) in space**.

# GEOGRAPHY

## SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

### Bonda Tribe

- Members of the **Bonda community in Odisha's** Malkangiri district are set to transition from fragile thatched huts to permanent pucca houses under the Union government's **PM-Janman** scheme.

### About Bonda Tribe

- The **Bondas** are exclusively found in the **Malkangiri district of Odisha** and are mostly concentrated in the **Khairaput block** of the district.
- They are considered one of the **first settlers in India**, with their lineage tracing back to the **Austroasiatic** race.
- Language:**
  - The Bonda people speak **Remo**, a language belonging to the **Austroasiatic linguistic family**.
  - This is **distinct from mainstream Indian languages**, making it difficult for outsiders to communicate with them.
- The **religion** of the Bonda people is **animistic**, focused on the worship of nature and ancestral spirits.

### About Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi

### Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

#### Scheme

- PM JANMAN is a government scheme that aims to **bring tribal communities into the mainstream**.
- The scheme (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) will be

implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTG communities.

- The scheme will concentrate on **11 critical interventions** overseen by **9 line Ministries**, ensuring the implementation of existing schemes in villages inhabited by PVTGs.

### Hornbill Festival

- The **26<sup>th</sup> Hornbill Festival (2025)** in Nagaland is underway, with day three showcasing vibrant cultural performances by 18 Naga tribal troupes at **Kisama Heritage Village**.

### About Hornbill Festival

- It is a premier cultural festival of **Nagaland**, known as the **"Festival of Festivals,"** celebrating the heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions of all major Naga tribes.
- Held annually from **December 1-10 at Kisama Heritage Village**, near Kohima in Nagaland.
- Theme of 2025 festival:** Cultural Connect.

### Dandami Madia tribes

- Context:** Members of the **Dandami Madia tribes** recently performed their traditional **Bison Horn Maria dance** during a village festival held at **Judiya Para** in **Jagdalpur**.
- Performed during festivals, especially the **Madai Mela (Maa Danteshwari Temple festival)**.
- Dandami Maria, also known by other names like **Bison Horn Maria** and **Khalpati Maria**.
- It is a tribal community which lives in **Chhattisgarh**.
- They have derived their name from their **unique custom of wearing a distinctive head-gear**, which resembles the horns of a wild bison.

- The Dandami Madia tribe primarily **speaks Dandami Maria**, while some **also use Gondi dialects of Dravidian origin.**

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

### Great Nicobar Project Site Biodiversity

#### New Species Discoveries

- A **new wolf snake**, *Lycodon irwini*, named after Steve Irwin, described in *Evolutionary Systematics*.
  - Only four records exist; sharply restricted range; recommended as **Endangered (IUCN)**.
- A potentially new bird species, the **Great Nicobar Crane** (*Rallina* sp), photographed only three times in over a decade.
- Since 2021, nearly 40 new species reported from the site, including:
  - **Frogs:** 2 species
  - **Crabs:** 4 species
  - **Geckos:** 2 species
  - Various insects (flies, moths, beetles)

#### Biodiversity Significance

- Great Nicobar Island hosts **650 plant species** and over **1,800 fauna species**.
- Exhibits **~24% endemism** in some faunal groups.
- Rich tropical rainforest ecosystem, described as “perhaps the finest left in India” by experts.
- The discoveries highlight the island’s **genetic and ecological richness**.

### Kuno National Park (KNP)

- **Context:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister released **three cheetahs** into the wild at **Kuno National Park (KNP)** in Sheopur district. The

release took place on **International Cheetah Day**.

#### About Kuno National Park

- It is located in the Sheopur district of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is nestled near the **Vindhyan Hills**.
- Originally established as **Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary** in 1981, it was upgraded to a national park in 2018.
- The park’s historical significance lies in its role as a relocation site for Asiatic lions under the **“Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project.”**
- The park is named after the **Kuno River**, a major **tributary of the Chambal**, which flows south to north and splits the park into two parts.
- It was selected under the ‘Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India’.

#### **Senna spectabilis**

- **Tamil Nadu** has launched one of **India’s largest invasive-species eradication** drives to completely remove *Senna spectabilis* from all forest divisions by **March 2026**.

#### About *Senna spectabilis*:

- *Senna spectabilis* is a **fast-growing, yellow-flowering tree** belonging to the **legume family (Fabaceae)**, widely planted as an ornamental and shade tree but now recognised as a highly invasive alien species in India, Africa, and parts of Asia.
- **Native to:** South & Central America (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela).

- In India, it has aggressively invaded **Nilgiris, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, Anaikatty** and other **Western Ghats ecosystems**.
- **IUCN Status:** Classified as Least Concern.
- **Aim:** To scientifically assess the population, distribution, and movement of **Bengal tigers** across major forest areas and reserves in the country.

### **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**

- **Context:** Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi) in Sagar district will be developed as Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah habitat.
- **Nauradehi** will be the **first cheetah habitat** in India where cheetahs must coexist with apex predators (25 tigers along with wolves, wild dogs, panthers, and crocodiles).
- Kuno and Gandhi Sagar had predator-free landscapes before cheetah introduction.
- The exercise emphasizes modern technology and rigorous scientific methods to ensure accurate results.
- **Corbett Tiger Reserve** is a major focus area.
- **Uttarakhand** recorded 560 tigers in the last count.

### **Animal Exchange Programme**

- **The Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka** has imported eight **black-capped capuchin monkeys** from South Africa.

### **About Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**

- It is the **largest wildlife** sanctuary in **Madhya Pradesh**, declared in **1975**.
- The entire Sanctuary is situated on the **upper Vindhyan** plateau within the **Deccan Peninsula** biogeographic region.
- **NWS** acts as a corridor for **Panna Tiger Reserve** and **Satpura Tiger Reserve** while indirectly connecting **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** via **Rani Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Rivers:** Three fourth of the sanctuary falls in the **Yamuna (Ganges)** basin and one fourth of the sanctuary falls in the **Narmada** basin.
- The **Kopra River, Banner River, Bearma River**, which are tributaries of the **Ken River**, are the major rivers of this protected area.
- **Aim:** To enhance genetic diversity and strengthen conservation-oriented zoological management.
- Scientifically known as **Sapajus paella**.
- **Central Zoo Authority** approval is mandatory for international animal transfer.
- **IUCN: Least Concern**

### **Freshwater Sponges**

- **Freshwater sponges** host diverse **microbial communities** essential for ecosystem health.
- They can act as **bioindicators** of water pollution.
- Sponges have the ability to **absorb and accumulate toxic metals** such as arsenic, lead, and cadmium.
- Their metal-accumulating capacity makes them **promising agents for bioremediation**.

### **National Tiger Census**

- India launched its National Tiger Census on 14 December 2025, conducted **every four years**.

### Vulture Conservation Centre

- **Jharkand** is set to get its **first Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre at Muta, about 36km from Ranchi**
- Significant step towards protecting its country's rapidly declining vulture population.
- Vulture comes under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.**

### IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

- **Indian wildlife conservationist Vivek Menon** has been elected as the **Chair** of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) for **2025-2029.**
- He is the **first Asian** to head the Commission in its **75-year history.**

#### About Species Survival Commission (SSC)

- The SSC is IUCN's **largest scientific network**, focused on species conservation and halting biodiversity loss globally.
- **Established in:** 1949, alongside the formation of IUCN.
- The SSC oversees the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

### Dulhasti Stage II Project

- **Context:** MoEFCC approved Dulhasti Stage II Hydroelectric Project
- The Dulhasti Stage II hydroelectric project (260 MW) In the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This project will utilise water from Chenab river part of the Indus Water Basin.
- Chenab River

- It is a tributary of the **Indus River.**

- Major Dams on Chenab River: Salal (rockfill dam), Aalal (concrete dam), Baglihar, and Dul.

### Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)

- **Context:** India is rapidly progressing toward becoming the **first country in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** to officially recognize **100 coastal villages as "Tsunami Ready."**
- This initiative is part of India's commitment to the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP).
- The TRRP is implemented by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- The programme aims to build tsunami-resilient coastal communities through awareness and preparedness.
- In 2020, two villages in Odisha were certified under TRRP, making India the first country in the IOR to receive this recognition; 26 villages in Odisha have since been recognized.
- **Global Goal:** Under the UN Ocean Decade (2021-2030), UNESCO-IOC aims to make 100% of at-risk coastal communities tsunami-ready by 2030.
- **Significance:** The programme supports the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and Sustainable Development Goal-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

## INDIAN POLITY

### Population Census

- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs has informed the Lok Sabha that the housing census will be conducted from April to September 2026, and the population census will begin in March 2027.
- The population census will be conducted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It will be conducted in **two phases**:
  - First, the housing census, and
  - Second, the population census.
- During the 2027 population census, a **caste census** will also be conducted.
- To facilitate the conduct of the population census, a pilot census was conducted until November 30 in selected cities across some states and union territories on a trial basis.

### Limitations of Rajya Sabha Rule 267

- **Context:** Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan gave a detailed explanation on December 05, 2025 about the limitations of Rule 267.
- Under **Rajya Sabha Rule 267**, MPs can propose a resolution in the House.
- If a resolution is passed under this rule, the Rajya Sabha business will be adjourned for that day and a discussion on the specific resolution will be held.

- However, the **approval of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha** is required to implement this rule.

### About Rajya Sabha Rule 267

- It was **amended** in the year 2000.
- Accordingly, only the matters already listed in the Rajya Sabha can be discussed under Rule 267.
- No other matters can be discussed.
- **Only 3 notices** were accepted under this rule between **1988 and 2000**.
- **Only 8 cases** have been accepted unanimously under Rule 267 since 2000.

### National Green Tribunal

- The Zonal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in Chennai **organised** the Regional Conference on Environment 2025 on 6 and 7 December.
- The two-day event aims to strengthen institutional cooperation and advance a shared regional vision for environmental protection and sustainable development.

### About National Green Tribunal

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was **established on October 18, 2010**, under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**, to expedite environmental justice in India.
- As a **specialized body**, the NGT is dedicated to handling cases related to environmental protection, forest conservation, and the enforcement of legal rights associated with the environment, including compensation for

damages to individuals and property from environmental violations.

- The tribunal also covers issues related to **accidental health impacts** from environmental causes.
- The NGT operates with a **six-month case disposal target**, guided by principles of natural justice.
- **Current Chairman of NGT-** Justice Prakash Shrivastava.

### **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**

- **Context:** Defence Minister inaugurated 125 Border Roads Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects valued at ₹5,000 crore – marking the **largest single-day project launch** in the organisation's history.

#### **About Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**

- It is a premier road construction executive force under the **Ministry of Defence responsible** for developing and maintaining strategic infrastructure in India's border areas and in friendly foreign countries.
- Established on **7 May 1960**.
- BRO functions under the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)**
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Aim:** To meet the strategic needs of the Armed Forces through efficient, time-bound and **high-quality infrastructure development**. To support socio-economic development of remote border regions.

### **National Backward Classes Welfare Commission**

- **Context:** Madras High Court directs the Central Government to fill all vacant posts, including Vice Chairman, in the **National Backward Classes Welfare Commission** within 6 months.

#### **About National Backward Classes Welfare**

##### **Commission**

- It is a constitutional body under Article 338B, mandated to safeguard the rights and ensure the welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).
- Originally created under the NCBC Act, 1993, it gained constitutional status in 2018 through the 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment, which inserted Articles 338B and 342A.

##### **Composition:**

- **5 members:** Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three Members.
- Appointed by the **President** of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
- Members hold rank and pay equivalent to **Secretary**, Government of India.
- Current Chairman of the National Backward Classes Welfare Commission: **Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir**

##### **Citizenship**

- **Context:** The Supreme Court clarified that citizenship rights under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019**, will be granted only after authorities verify and

confirm the applicants' claims of being persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

### **About citizenship laws**

- The citizenship laws in India derived their origins from the constitution under **Articles 5-11** and the **Citizenship Act of 1955**.
- This Act provided provisions for citizenship by **birth, descent, registration & naturalisation**.

### **Key Features of the CAA Act, 2019**

- It amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for Indian citizenship.
- Those from these communities who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, would not be treated as illegal immigrants, providing a path to naturalisation.

### **National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025**

- The **National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025**, was introduced in Parliament.
- The Bill proposes the **creation of a National Blood Transfusion Authority** as a central regulatory body.
- It aims to establish **uniform national standards** for collection, testing, processing, storage, distribution, issuance and transfusion of blood and blood components.

### **About Thalassemia**

- Thalassemia is an **inherited blood disorder** where the body produces **insufficient hemoglobin**, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen, **resulting in anemia** and poorly functioning red blood cells.
- Thalassemia is classified as a '**disability**' under the **RPwD Act, 2016**, reflecting its serious and chronic impact.

### **World Thalassaemia Day - May 8**

- **2025 Theme:** "Together for Thalassaemia Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients."

### **Thalassemia Control Initiatives in India**

- Comprehensive Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Hemoglobinopathies (2016)
- National Health Mission (NHM)
- e-RaktKosh

### **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan**

### **(VBSA) Bill, 2025**

- Bill proposes setting up of higher education commission along with three councils
- It seeks to subsume the functions of the **University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical education, National Council for Teachers Education**

### **Chief Information Commissioner**

- **President Droupadi Murmu** administered the oath of office to **Raj Kumar Goyal** as the Chief

Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission

### About Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission is a statutory **body** established under the Right to Information Act, of 2005
- **Appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a **Committee** consisting of:
  - The **Prime Minister** as the Chairperson,
  - The **Leader of Opposition** in the Lok Sabha
  - A **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister
- **Term: 3 years** from date of taking office **or age 65**, whichever is earlier.
- **Reappointment: Not eligible** for reappointment.

▪ The court brought companies under the ambit of **Article 51A(g)** of the Constitution

▪ **Article 51A(g)**- “to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures”.

▪ Great Indian Bustard

- One of the heaviest flying birds in the world.
- Flagship species of the arid and semi-arid grasslands of the Indian subcontinent.
- Primarily located in and around the Great Thar desert.

• **IUCN Red List - Critically Endangered**

• **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Schedule I).**

### Supreme Court on Corporate Duty to Protect the Environment:

- **Context:** Judgment delivered on petitions concerning risks faced by the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**.
- **CSR includes environmental responsibility:**
  - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) must **inherently include environmental protection**.
  - Corporations, as **legal persons**, have a **fundamental duty to protect the ecosystem**.

### President Grants Assent to VB-G RAM G Bill, Replacing MGNREGA

▪ **President Droupadi Murmu** granted assent to the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill**.

▪ The new Act **replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

▪ **VB-G RAM**

▪ The number of guaranteed days of work from **100 to 125**.

- **Cost sharing ratio between centre and states** 60:40, between centre and Northeastern and Himalayan states 90:10.
  - **The provision for providing compensation if employment is not offered within 15 days continues in the new law as well.**
  - Four Focus Areas for Works:
    - Water security
    - Core rural infrastructure
    - Livelihood-related infrastructure
    - Extreme weather mitigation
  - **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005**
  - MGNREGA was a rights-based legislation inspired by **Article 41** of the Constitution of India.
  - It gave every rural household the right to **demand 100 days of employment per year.**
  - It was unique because it was universal and without any limitations.
  - It did not target any special social category such as **Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.**
  - The Union government was responsible for **100% of the labour wages and 75% of the material wages.**
  - **90:10** cost share between the Centre and the States.
  - **One-third of the employees must be women.**
  - Employment should be provided **within a 5 km radius**; if it is beyond 5 km, additional compensation will be provided.
  - **Article 41:** To secure the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disability.
- President Grants Assent to SHANTI Bill**
- **President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to Sustainable Harnessing Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India.**
  - The new law repeals the **Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Nuclear Liability Act of 2010.**
  - Private companies will receive permission to build, operate, and maintain nuclear power plants.
  - Security and strategic sectors (uranium, thorium mining, nuclear fuel, reprocessing) will remain under the control of the Central Government.
  - India's long term energy and climate goals which includes **decarbonisation by 2070**
  - Target of **achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047**
- Denotified Tribes to Be Counted in Census 2027**
- **Context:** The **ministry of social justice and empowerment** has recommended to the **Registrar General of India** to include

denotified tribes in the Census exercise, which will be initiated in 2026.

## **President Droupadi Murmu Releases Constitution of India in Santhali Language**

- This will be the **first time in Independent India** that denotified tribes will be enumerated since 1911
- **The Santhali language** is spoken by a significant number of tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.

### **Denotified Tribes**

- Previously classified as “criminal tribes” under the **Colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.
- The Act was repealed in **1949** after Independence and the tribal communities were “denotified”.
- The Constitution of India is now available in their language, written in the **OI Chiki script**.
- In 2003, the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali to Schedule VIII** to the Constitution of India, which lists the **official languages of India**.



## INDIAN ECONOMY

### Repo Rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has cut the repo rate by 25 bps, bringing it down to 5.25%.
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate adjusted to 5.5%.
- In Q2 2025-26, average headline inflation fell to 1.7%, below the 2% lower tolerance level of the RBI's flexible inflation-targeting (FIT) framework.

### About Repo Rate

- Repo rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities.
- It is a monetary policy tool used to control liquidity, inflation, and credit flow in the economy.
- Impact on Borrowing Costs:
  - 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.

### Open Market Operations

- RBI to conduct OMO purchases of ₹1 lakh crore in government securities (G-Secs) to inject durable liquidity.

### About Open Market Operations

- Open Market Operations (OMOs) are market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.

### Sugar production

- India's sugar production has increased by 43 percent in the first two months of the current 2025-26 marketing year.

### The largest sugar producing states in India are:

- Uttar Pradesh produced 14.0 million tonnes of sugar.
- Maharashtra (second largest sugar producing state)
- Karnataka (third largest)
- Gujarat produced 92,000 tonnes,
- Tamil Nadu produced 35,000 tonnes of sugar.

### Circular Economy

- Context: Union Home and Cooperation Minister stated that implementing the circular economy model nationwide will increase

dairy farmers' income by 20% over the next five years.

### About Circular Economy

- It is a **model of production and consumption**, which involves **sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling** existing materials and products as long as possible.
- It is a departure from the **traditional, linear economic model**, which is based on a **take-make-consume-throw** away pattern.
- **India's Initiatives:** Swachh Bharat Mission, GOBAR-Dhan Scheme, E-Waste Management Rules 2022, Mission LiFE etc.

### India's Renewable Energy Growth

- India has **added 31.25 GW of renewable energy** in the current financial year, including **24.28 GW of solar power**.
- India has become a **key global contributor to renewable energy**, especially solar:
- Solar capacity grew from **2.8 GW (2014) → 130 GW (2025)**, a **4,500% increase** in 11 years.
- Between 2022-2024, India contributed **46 GW to global solar additions**, becoming the **third-largest contributor**.
- Despite being the **world's fifth-largest coal reserve holder** and the **second-largest consumer of coal**, India emphasizes a **balanced energy mix**.

### World's Largest Real-Time Payment System

- The IMF has officially recognised India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the

**world's largest real-time retail payment system by transaction volume.**

- IMF's report "**Growing Retail Digital Payments - The Value of Interoperability**" lists UPI as the world's largest retail fast-payment system.
- UPI accounts for **49% of all global real-time digital payments**, far ahead of **Brazil, Thailand and China**.

### About UPI

- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** is India's instant, real-time, **interoperable payments system** that enables bank-to-bank transfers using a mobile phone.
- It is **operated by NPCI** (National Payments Corporation of India) and **regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Origin of UPI:** Conceptualised by NPCI to unify fragmented payment systems under one interoperable platform.
- Launched as a **pilot in April 2016** by then RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan.

### Unemployment Rate

- Unemployment Rate **among people aged 15 years and above declined to 4.7%** in November
- By the report of **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**
- PLFS conducted by the **National Statistical Office of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**

### Sugar Production shows an Increase

- Sugar production from October 1, 2025 to

December 15 saw a **28% increase** compared with the same period in 2024.

- Sugar production is up in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- Sugarcane is a tropical and subtropical crop.
- **India ranks second** largest producer of sugar (1<sup>st</sup> Brazil).
- **Uttar Pradesh** is the largest sugar producing state in the country.

### The Central Finance Ministry released a new logo for RRBs

- The Ministry of Finance recently released a new logo to signify a unified and integrated brand identity for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

#### RRB

- Origin: It was established under the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**, based on the recommendations of the **Narasimhan Committee (1975)** on rural credit.
- **Prathama Grameen Bank** was the first Regional Rural Bank, established **on October 2, 1975**.

### India's Core Sector Performance

- **Context:** The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) **increased by 1.8% in November** compared with the same period last year
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- **Cement** emerged as the best-performing segment, recording **the highest year-on-year growth of 14.5%**.
- Eight Core Industries Weight in IIP: 40.27%.
- Industry & Weight (In percentage): Petroleum & Refinery production (28.04 %), Electricity

generation (19.85 %), Steel production (17.92 %), Coal production (10.33 %), Crude Oil production (8.98 %), Natural production Gas (6.88 %), Cement production (5.37%), Fertilizers production (2.63 %).

### Index of Industrial Production

- **Context:** India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **6.7% in November 2025**, marking a **25-month high**
- The previous higher growth was recorded in **October 2023 (11.9%)**.

The Index of Industrial Production is a key macroeconomic indicator that measures the performance of India's industrial sectors, including manufacturing, mining, and electricity.

- **Manufacturing:** Recorded robust growth, reflecting improved output across multiple industries.

By strong performances in **manufacturing and construction sectors**, the capital goods sector recorded **high growth of 10.4%** in November.

- **Mining output** growth accelerated to a three-month high of **5.4% in November**.

The **electricity sector** was the only one to contract, **declining by 1.5%** in November, down from a growth of 4.4% in November last year.

### NITI Aayog meeting

- **Background:** A NITI Aayog meeting was held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Modi. Discussions were held on ways to transform India into a **developed nation by 2047**.

**Indian Economy – Key Data**

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has crossed **\$4.18 trillion**. With this, India has overtaken Japan to become the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy.
- Unemployment was 5.1 percent in April. As of November, this percentage has decreased to 4.7 percent.
- India's exports stood at \$36.43 billion in January. In November, Indian exports rose to **\$38.13 billion**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has projected India's economic growth to be 7.3% in the 2025-26 financial year.
- The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and various other international financial institutions have projected India's economic growth to be between 6.5 percent and 7.4 percent.



## TAMIL NADU

### INITIATIVES / SCHEMES

#### 'TN 100 Chip Varsity' Programme

- **Guidance** Tamil Nadu and iVP Semi launched the "TN 100 Chip Varsity" programme.
- Aims to strengthen **Tamil Nadu's semiconductor ecosystem**.
- **Official Launch:** A MoU formalizing the collaboration was signed at the **TN Rising conclave in Coimbatore**, in the presence of Chief Minister.
- **Objectives**
  - Develop 100 new chip designs.
  - Train 5,000 students annually in advanced semiconductor design skills.
  - Build a state-wide network of chip design facilities within engineering colleges.

#### State Initiatives

- **Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030 (TNSM 2030):** ₹500-crore fund, including **Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme**.
- Push to establish **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** for: **Chip design, Testing and Validation**.

#### Nalam Kaakkum Stalin Initiative Review

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu chaired a review meeting at the Secretariat on the **progress of the Nalam Kaakkum Stalin initiative**.
- The initiative, launched on **August 2**, aims to provide **advanced medical services through special health camps**.
- The government sanctioned **₹13.58 crore** to organize **1,256 camps** across the State, prioritizing areas with limited medical access.

#### ▪ Priority groups at the camps include:

- People above 40 years
- Those with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, mental health issues
- Pregnant women
- Children with developmental delays
- Persons with disabilities
- Tribal communities

▪ So far, **632 camps** have been held, benefiting **9,86,732 people**.

#### 126 Knowledge Centres in Tamil Nadu

▪ **Objective:** To provide literacy and education to rural people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to benefit students, farmers, and women's self-help groups.

▪ **Government Order:** Issued by the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.

▪ **Functions:**

- Announcing government welfare schemes.
- Providing education and useful information.
- Providing training to farmers, students, and self-help groups.

▪ Fund allocated from NABARD Bank's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the year 2025-26.

▪ **Implementing Agency:** Being constructed based on the project design of TAHDCO (Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation).

▪ **Maximum Centres:**

- Namakkal: 24 centres (highest)
- Tiruppur, Virudhunagar: 12 centres each
- Salem: 10 centres
- Karur: 8 centres
- Tiruvannamalai: 7 centres
- Erode, Coimbatore: 6 centres each
- Thanjavur: 3 centres

- Pudukkottai: 3 centres
- Trichy: 4 centres
- Perambalur: 1 centre

### TN Rising Summit

- T.N. Rising Summit in Madurai secured **91 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)**, leading to a cumulative investment of **₹36,660 crore**.
- **PM MITRA Integrated Textile Park** coming up in **Virudhunagar** district. It is being developed jointly with the Union government, at a cost of ₹1,894 crore, on 1,052 acres.
- Hyundai Company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to establish its first Indian shipyard in Thoothukudi (Tuticorin).
- Tamil Nadu attracted **₹11.38 lakh crore in committed investments** over the past four years, creating **34 lakh jobs**.
- Earlier investor conferences in **Thoothukudi, Hosur, and Coimbatore** secured nearly ₹1 lakh crore in assured investment.

#### About T.N. Rising Summit

- Madurai edition is the **fourth** T.N. Rising Summit (following Thoothukudi and Hosur, Coimbatore), reinforcing the government's commitment to shifting the spotlight away from the capital city of Chennai.
- The summit aims to attract investments to **tier-2 and tier-3 cities**.
- Goal: Promote **balanced and inclusive industrial growth** across Tamil Nadu.

### Social Justice Hostels

- Context: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated two new social justice hostels for women college students.

#### About Social Justice Hostels

- All government-run hostels in Tamil Nadu were **renamed** 'Samooga Needhi Viduthigal' (Social Justice Hostels).

- This aims to **remove the caste and religious labels** and create equality among the students.
- The decision follows the suggestions from a **committee** led by retired judge **K. Chandru** to reduce caste differences in schools and colleges.
- Tamil Nadu has **2,740+ government hostels** accommodating **179,000+ students**.

### Green Tamil Nadu Mission

- **Context:** Under the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM)**, over **2.24 crore Palmyrah seeds** have been planted across Tamil Nadu.

#### About Green Tamil Nadu Mission

- Green Tamil Nadu Mission was announced in the **Tamil Nadu Budget 2021-22**.
- The mission aims to increase the **forest and tree cover** of Tamil Nadu from **about 23.7-23.8% to 33%** of the State's geographical area.
- The target year for achieving this increase is **2030-31**, as per the Government of Tamil Nadu's vision.
- Under the mission, the scheme "**Rehabilitation of Coastal Habitats through formation of Bio-shields**" is being implemented.
  - The scheme covers **all coastal districts of Tamil Nadu**.
  - The implementation period of the coastal bio-shield scheme is **2023-24 to 2025-26**.
  - Bio-shields are being created using **Casuarina, Palmyrah, Cashew and Mangroves**, along with **restoration of seagrass and coral reefs**.
  - The scheme is funded by the **Department of Environment and Climate Change**, Government of Tamil Nadu.
  - The objective of the scheme is to **prevent and mitigate natural disasters** such as **cyclones, tsunami and coastal erosion**.

- Tamil Nadu plans to contribute to creating an **additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes by 2030**.
- This contribution forms part of India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the **Paris Agreement**.
- **First phase** to be rolled out in **four districts**: Ariyalur, Perambalur, Tiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri.
- The first dose will be administered to **27,000 girls initially** and 3,38,000 girls across the State will benefit

### **Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam**

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu government launched the second phase of the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam on December 12.
- **16.94 lakh additional women** have been included, bringing total beneficiaries to **1.30 crore**.
- Allocated Budget **-₹36 crore** for the HPV vaccination programme
- Target group: **Girls aged 9–14 years** studying in **government and government-aided schools**.
- **Tamil Nadu will be the first State in the country** to provide the HPV vaccine free of cost

### **About Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on **September 15, 2023**, launched the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam in **Kancheepuram**.
- This was launched on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) founder **C.N. Annadurai**.
- Each beneficiary receives a **monthly ₹1,000**, credited directly to their bank accounts.
- The Tamil Nadu government will incur an expenditure of **₹12,000 crore annually**, to implement this scheme.
- Similar programmes have been launched in **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Puducherry, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Sikkim**.
- Each child would receive two doses.

### **Nambikkai Maiyams (Integrated counselling and Testing Centres)**

- While HIV prevalence was **0.23% in India**, it was **0.16% in Tamil Nadu**.
- The State was ensuring 100% screening of pregnant women for HIV and syphilis, thereby preventing transmission to the baby.
- A few years ago, shops doing 'blood art' had been shut down, and monitoring of such practices continues to **make Tamil Nadu free of HIV/AIDS by 2030**.
- World Aids Day-December 1
- 2025 theme: "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response"

### **T.N.'s HPV Vaccination Programme**

- **Context:** T.N.'s HPV vaccination programme to begin in **four districts** soon
- The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has launched a '**pink crew**', where

operations on a route will be handled by an all-woman crew

- The 'pink crew' service on two routes from the **Vyasarpadi depot**, from where electric buses are operated.
- The move comes as part of promoting **participation and leadership of women** in public transport

### 'Naan Mudhalvan' Technology Courses in Polytechnic Colleges

- 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme technology courses to be introduced in the **4th semester** of polytechnic colleges in Tamil Nadu.
- Objective: **Enhance technical teaching capacity and align polytechnic education with industry-relevant skills** under the *Naan Mudhalvan* initiative.
- Implementation begins in the **current academic year 2025-26**.
- **Directorate of Technical Education (DOTE)** is overseeing the introduction of these courses.
- To ensure effective teaching, a **6-day skill development training** programme has been launched for polytechnic teachers.
- The training has commenced **across Tamil Nadu**, covering both **government and private polytechnic colleges**.

### Sports Tamil Nadu Athlete Management System

- Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister launched the system the Sports Tamil Nadu Athlete Management System at **TASCON 2.0** (Tamil

Nadu Sports Conclave) at **Taj Coromandel, Chennai**.

- A digital platform that will serve as an insightful **performance tracker** for the SDAT athletes.
- The platform will have features like a wellness questionnaire, training schedule, gym load data ingestion, injury reporting, and hydration tracker.
- **For the first time, the State government** was bringing together training, wellness, performance, and medical insights into a single, intelligent digital platform.

### Expansion of Cool Roof Initiative

- **Context:** Cool roof scheme to be extended to **297 green schools** across Tamil Nadu.

#### Cool Roof Initiative

- Included in the **2025-26 Action Plan** of the **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission**.
- Under the initiative, the classrooms of a government school in **Ambattur** had been coated with heat-reflective white paint.
- **1.5°C-3°C reduction** in indoor temperature using **heat-reflective white paint**, confirmed through sensors.

### Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

- **Tamil Nadu is the first state in India to launch its own climate change mission.**
- **Objection of the mission is to make climate smart state.**
- **To expand collective human action to respond to climate change.**
- **Reduce Greenhouse gases.**

## Tamil Nadu's Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM) Registry

- State-level Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM) Registry launched in **August 2024** under **National Health Mission (NHM) - Tamil Nadu**.
- Children receiving treatment in **both government and private hospitals** are included.
- Significance
  - To improve survival rates, ensure continued care, and enhance the quality of life for children and adolescents.

## National Health Mission

- National Health Mission (NHM) was launched in **2013** subsuming the National Rural & Urban Health Mission.
- Its **centrally sponsored** scheme.
- Fund Sharing: **60:40** between central government and states, **90:10** for north eastern states.
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
- **Aim:** "Universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services, accountable and responsive to people's needs".

## ELCOT-Perplexity AI MoU

- To provide training to college students in Tamil Nadu in **Perplexity Pro AI**.
- Training for **six months free of cost**.

## Tamil Nadu launches two digital platforms

- Tamil Nadu government launched two portals on December 23, 2025.

- TN Corporate Social Responsibility (TNCSR) Portal

- Provides an integrated platform for planning, implementation, and monitoring of CSR initiatives.

- Tamil Nadu Land Use Information System (TiNAI)

- Developed under the Tamil Nadu Innovative Initiatives Project with a sanction of ₹1.50 crore.

- Integrates 50 years of research and data from government departments and institutions.

- Uses modern Geographic Information Technology.

- **Objective:** Improve coordination among State government departments, corporates, and the public.

## India's Longest Double Decker Viaduct

- **India's longest double decker viaduct** to come up in **Chennai**.

- It comprising a six lane elevated highway on the lower deck and a metro corridor on the upper level has been proposed for 18.4km stretch

## 'Nalam Kaakkum Stalin' Camps

- **Context:** Over **13 lakh people** have benefited from the *Nalam Kaakkum Stalin* medical camps.

- Camps are being conducted across **all 38 districts** of Tamil Nadu.

- **Full-body health check-ups** and specialist consultations helped identify health issues at an **early stage**.

- Patients needing further treatment were referred to higher medical facilities.
- Beneficiaries were enrolled on the spot in the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
- The initiative was launched on August 2, 2025 by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

### Tamil Nadu's CMCHIS Expands Access to High-End Medical Procedures

- Context: Over 18,000 patients have undergone high-end medical procedures under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- Eight high-end procedures are covered, including kidney, liver, heart, lung transplants, cochlear implants, auditory brainstem implants, and bone marrow/stem cell transplants.
- Renal transplants benefited the highest number of patients (6,524), followed by cochlear implants (6,276).

### Chief Minister Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme

- Families with Rs.1.20 lakh annual income will be eligible.
- Journalists who have accreditation card and press pass holders are eligible for this scheme.
- Implemented through United India Insurance Corporation.

### Wildlife Transit and Treatment Centre

- Tamil Nadu's first Wildlife Transit and Treatment Centre at Pethikuttai near

Sirumugai and an elephant camp at Chadivayal.

- This centre has an operational theatre and enclosure for all animals along with a separate shed for elephant calves.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Tamil Nadu's Expert Committee for Elephant Translocation SOP

- The Tamil Nadu government has formed a high-level expert committee.
- Objective: To develop a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the capture, translocation, release, and post-release monitoring of wild elephants and other wildlife species.
- Chairperson of the committee: A. Udhayan, PCCF & Director, AIWC.
- The recent elephant deaths (still under investigation) triggered a reassessment of current translocation protocols.
- The committee has been given a two-month deadline to submit its report and the draft SOP.

### Marine Elite Protection Force

- The Marine Elite Protection Force was launched to protect and monitor marine resources.
- It provides protection to endangered species such as the Olive Ridley sea turtle, dolphins, and dugongs.
- It focuses primarily on enforcing the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**IUCN Red List**

- Olive Ridley Sea Turtle - Vulnerable
- Dugong - Vulnerable

**Tamil Nadu to Conduct Statewide Hornbill Population Survey**

- **Context:** Forest officials in Tamil Nadu are planning to launch an extensive field exercise to determine the population of hornbills across forest landscapes.
- **Aim :** To protect habitat, particularly the conservation of large, mature trees with natural hollows that hornbills depend on for nesting.
- **The first phase** will cover the Anamalai, Srivilliputhur-Megamalai, and Kalakkad-Mundathurai tiger reserves, along with the Karamadai and Mettupalayam ranges under the Coimbatore forest division.
- **Four species** are expected to be documented during the survey – the Great Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Indian Grey Hornbill, and Malabar Pied Hornbill.
- In July this year, the State government announced the establishment of the country's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore district.
- IUCN Status of Hornbill- Vulnerable.

**Waxen Tiger Beetle**

- Waxen Tiger Beetle (*Lophyra Cerina*) a critically endangered species has been sighted again in then red sand Their forest of Thoothukudi.

**Project for smooth-coated otters**

- Tamil Nadu has launched a special conservation project for the smooth-coated otter in the Cauvery Delta region.
- This initiative addresses the increasing human-wildlife conflicts.
- Smooth-coated otters
- Smooth-coated otters are the largest otter species in Asia.
- They are listed as a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.
- This species is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**Blue Flag certification**

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu government is upgrading Marina Beach infrastructure to meet international standards and secure the Blue Flag certification for multiple beaches.
- To achieve the Blue Flag eco-label awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, which requires meeting 33 stringent criteria across water quality, environmental management, safety, and accessibility.
- Kovalam Beach in Tamil Nadu has already received the certification.

**Tamil Nadu Government Initiative**

- Efforts underway to obtain Blue Flag certification for six beaches, including Marina and Thiruvanniyur.
- Marina-Thiruvanniyur stretch:
  - World's second-largest beach.
  - India's longest beach, about 13 km.

## Chennai Shows Progress on Fine Particle Pollution

- **Chennai** has emerged as one of India's better-performing cities on fine particulate matter pollution
- Analysing real-time air quality data from 2017 to 2024, **Kodungaiyur**, recorded the **lowest annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> level in the country in 2024**, at 12.6 micrograms per cubic metre, well below the national standard of 40g/m<sup>3</sup>.
- **The Delhi-NCR** region continues to dominate the list of the most polluted locations for both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, with annual PM<sub>10</sub> levels crossing 250g/m<sup>3</sup> at multiple stations.

## National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- National Clean Air Programme has been launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
- **Goal:** Meet prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in the country in a stipulated timeframe (long-term).
- **Target:** Target has been set to achieve reduction in PM10 level up to 40% or achievement of national ambient air quality standards (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) by **2025-26** from the levels of 2019-20.

## Integrated bird census

- An integrated bird census is scheduled to be conducted across Tamil Nadu on December 27th and 28th to monitor the population and diversity of birds.
- This exercise is conducted annually at the state level to monitor the population and diversity of birds.

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department intends to conduct the integrated bird census for the year **2025-2026 in two phases.**

- The first phase will include a wetland bird census (inland and coastal wetlands), and the second phase will include a terrestrial bird census.

- **India ranks 8th globally in bird species diversity**, and Tamil Nadu's wetlands and forests play a crucial role in this richness.

- Tamil Nadu is implementing several flagship projects, including the establishment of a hornbill conservation centre and undertaking conservation efforts.

- These also include the establishment of a raptor research foundation at the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), and the establishment of an international bird conservation centre in **Marakkanam, near Puducherry.**

## Vulture Safe Zone

- **Context:** The Forest Department has formed a 14 member team as part of the declaration of a Vulture Safe Zone around the Moyar valley.

- It extends into the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the Nilgiris, the Sathyamangalm Tiger Reserve in Erode district.

- Primary goal of Vulture Safe Zone is to create a safe environment free from threats, especially the use of toxic veterinary NSIADs like diclofenac.

- Synchronised vulture census is being conducted with the participation of Karnataka and Kerala forest departments.

## AWARDS

### Kalaigiar Ezhuthukol Award

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presented the **Kalaigiar Ezhuthukol Award 2024** to **T.E.R. Sukumar**, Managing Editor of Daily Thanthi.

#### About Kalaigiar Ezhuthukol Award

- In the **2021-22 demand for grants**, the Tamil Nadu government announced the '**Kalaigiar Ezhuthukol Award**' to honour journalists contributing to **social development** and the **upliftment of marginalised communities**.
- The award includes **₹5 lakh** prize money and a **certificate of appreciation**.
- Awardees:**
  - 2021 – Senior journalist I. Shanmuganathan
  - 2022 – Senior journalist V.N. Saamy
  - 2023 – Gopal, Editor of Nakkheeran
- During Kalaigiar's centenary, the CM announced a special '**Kalaigiar Eluthukol Award**' exclusively for women, awarded to **Sukita Sarangaraj**.

### Social Harmony Panchayat Award

- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister presented awards to **10 village panchayats** for upholding **social harmony**.
- Each panchayat received **₹1 crore** for development activities.

#### Awarded Panchayats

- Melamadai (Ramanathapuram)
- Paraiyanthangal (Villupuram)
- K. Alangulam & Kalingapatti (Tenkasi)
- Suriyanarkoil & Venkatasamudram (Thanjavur)

- Manivizhundhan (Salem)
- Mannivakkam (Chengalpattu)
- Ottarpalayam (Coimbatore)
- Thevoor (Nagapattinam)

### Thanthai Periyar Award

- Context:** Nominations are invited for the selection of the appropriate awardee for the Tamil Nadu Government's "**Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice**" for the year 2025.

#### About Thanthai Periyar Award

- The "**Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice**" has been awarded since 1995 to recognize those who work for social justice.
- The recipient of the Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice is given an award amount of **Rs. 5,00,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Only), a Sovereign Gold Medal and a citation.
- The awardee is **selected by the Chief Minister**.
- Recent recipients of the Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice include:**

- 2021: K. Thirunavukkarasu.
- 2022: Kavignar Kali Poonguntran.
- 2023: Suba Veerapandian.
- 2024: Viduthalai Rajendran.

### Best State Award for Promoting Sports

- The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu has been named '**Best State Promoting Sports Development**' at the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sports Business Awards 2025** held in **New Delhi**.
- The ceremony recognised excellence, innovation, and leadership across India's sports industry.

## UNEP's Champions of the Earth Award 2025

- **Supriya Sahu**, Additional Chief Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Forests (Tamil Nadu), has won the UNEP's Champions of the Earth Award 2025.
- The Champions of the Earth award is the United Nations' highest environmental distinction.
- It is given annually by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Ms. Sahu was selected in the "Inspiration and Action" category, which recognizes leaders delivering measurable benefits for people and the planet.

## Mutamizh Peravai Awards

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister presented the Mutamizh Peravai awards.

Kalaigarnar Award	Actor M. Nassar
Rajaratna Award	Vaduvor S.N.R. Krishnamurthy
Iyal Selvam Award	Tiruvarur Pulavar R. Shanmugavadivelan
Isai Selvam Award	Gayathri Venkataraghavan
Natya Selvam Award	Anitha Guha
Nadaswaram Selvam Award	T.K.R. Ayyappan & T.K.R. Meenakshisundaram
Thavil Selvam Award	Nangur N.K. Selvaganapathy
Mridhanga Selvam Award	Thanjavur K Murugaboopathi

## Tamil Isai Sangam Awards

- Bharatanatyam dancer **Chitra Visweswaran** was conferred the title **Isai Perarignar** for her distinguished contribution to Bharatanatyam

and her engagement with Tamil music traditions.

- The title **Pann Isai Perarignar** (scholar of melodic Tamil music) was conferred on **Kudanthai V. Lakshmanan**, a veteran exponent and researcher of Tamil pann music.

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### New GI Tags for Tamil Nadu

- Recently, five products from Tamil Nadu have secured the Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- With these additions, **Tamil Nadu now has 74 GI-tagged products.**
- **Woraiyur cotton sari**
  - Native to **Tiruchi district**; woven in **Manamedu** on the banks of the Cauvery.
  - Yarn from **Coimbatore & Rajapalayam**, dyes from **Jayamkondam**.
- **Kavindapadi nattu sakkara**
  - Produced in **Erode district**.
  - Made from sugarcane grown under the **Lower Bhavani Project canal**.
  - Traditional method: mechanical crushing + slow evaporation of cane juice.
- **Thooyamalli rice**
  - A traditional **sambha-season rice variety**, 135-140 day crop.
  - GI application by **Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board**, with **NABARD Madurai ABI Forum** support.
- **Namakkal makkal pathirangal / kalchatti**
  - Traditional **soapstone cookware** from **Namakkal**.

- Long usage history in South Indian kitchens.
- First excavated by **Dr. Jagor (1876)** and later extensively by **Alexander Rea (1899-1904)**.

- Earlier application withdrawn in 2019; new application in 2022 by **Namakkal Stone Products Manufacturers & MSME IP Facilitation Centre**.
- Large number of urn burials, skeletal remains, pottery, and iron and bronze artefacts.
- 169 burial urns were unearthed during the ASI excavations (2004-05).

#### ▪ **Ambasamudram choppu saman**

- Handmade miniature wooden toys from Tirunelveli district.
- Over 200-year-old craft tradition.
- Made from indigenous woods like **Manjal Kadamba, teak, rosewood**.
- Early excavations revealed gold diadems, pottery, weapons, and over 4,000 antiquities.

#### **Anaimangalam copper plates**

- **Chola-era Leiden copper plates** are also known as the **Anaimangalam copper plates**.
- They are a set of **royal charters** issued by **King Rajendra Chola**.

- The inscriptions record the **donation of Anaimangalam village (near Nagapattinam)** by **Rajaraja Chola** to **Sri Mara Vijayottunggavarman** of the **Srivijaya Kingdom**.

- The donation was made for the construction of a **Buddhist Vihara**, reflecting Chola-era overseas and religious links.

- The charter consists of **21 copper plates**, divided into **two sections**: One set inscribed in **Tamil** & The other in **Sanskrit**.

#### **Indus script on a grindstone from Pattinamaruthur**

- Indus script has been identified on a **grindstone in Pattinamaruthur, Thoothukudi** district.

- The **ancient letters and symbols** on the grindstone match the **Indus script**. It has also been found that **some Tamil Brahmi letters** are included.

#### **Adichanallur**

- **Context**: The Madras High Court has ordered that no sand mining be permitted anywhere near the **Adichanallur** archaeological site, citing the need to protect its heritage value.

#### **About Adichanallur**

- Adichanallur is one of India's **oldest Iron Age** archaeological sites, noted for extensive urn burials and early cultural evidence of South India.

- Situated in **Thoothukudi district**, Tamil Nadu, on the banks of the **Thamirabarani River**, near Srivaikuntam.

- Located about 24 km from Tirunelveli and close to the ancient port town of **Korkai** (mentioned in **Sangam literature**), indicating maritime links.

- **Chronology**: Carbon dating (2019) places the artefacts between **905 BCE and 696 BCE**, making the site **older than Keezhadi**.

- **Comparing** the type of these scripts found in **Pattinamaruthur and in Oslo, Norway**, it appears that the grindstone found in **Norway** may have been **purchased from South India during the early days of trade.**
- **Kautilya's Arthashastra** mentions that 'Corundum' (a hard grindstone) or 'Kuruntham' was used by our ancient South Indians.

### **Porunai Archaeological Museum**

- **CONTEXT:** This museum showcases the historical significance of the **Porunai (Thamirabarani)** river and the Tamil civilization.
- **Purpose:** To showcase the artefacts excavated at the ancient archaeological sites of Adichanallur, Sivakalai, and Korkai in Thoothukudi district, and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli district.
- **Location:** Built on 13 acres near **Reddiyarpatti hillock** on the outskirts of **Palayamkottai,**

### **Major Highlights:**

- **Sivakalai Block**
  - Demonstrated the Tamils' expertise in making iron tools and weapons
  - The burial urns, bronze vessels, iron tools and weapons, multi-coloured earthenware, tiles with various signs, and 'Thamizhi' letters.
- **Adichanallur Block**
  - Adichanallur, **the cradle of civilisation on the banks of the Tamirabharani.**
- Showcases burial urns, iron tools, offering pots, earthenware, and pottery tiles with Thamizhi letters.
- The 21 baked earthen pipes excavated at Adichanallur show the ancient Tamils' expertise in using these pipes for diverting water for irrigation.
- **Korkai**
  - The port town of the **Pandya Kingdom**
  - The glass beads and bangles, conch bangles, terracotta beads, stone beads, terracotta figures and pipes, copper coins, and Roman and Chinese pottery tiles excavated at Korkai.
  - Korkai's pearl fishery, and deep sea diving skills of ancient Tamils add colour to the museum.
- **Thulukkarpatti**
  - The excavations done at **Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli district.**
  - Silver coins, earthen jewels, glass jewels, polished tiles, a range of iron tools, terracotta figures, and pots with Thamizhi letters are excavated.
  - The research done on the artefacts of Thulukkarpatti and Indus Valley civilisations have yielded a lot of similarities between the two civilisations.

### **The museum features:**

- Digitally recreated iron smelting processes
- 5D immersive experiences of the Tamil landscape

- Virtual boat rides and river valley civilization exhibits
- Interactive walls, touchscreens, and digital communication centres
- **Design**
  - Museum featuring Chettinad and local architecture.
  - This structure has been built by combining traditional architectural style and modern technology.
- **Carbon Dating**
- **The Beta Analytics Laboratory in Miami, U.S.,** while analysing the paddy grains collected from a burial urn excavated at Sivakalai in 2021, determined that the **foodgrain dated back to 1,155 BC**, proving that Tamils living along the Tamirabharani had **cultivated paddy 3,200 years ago**.
- The carbon dating done on the iron tools recovered from Adichanallur and Sivakalai has rewritten the hypothesis of the Iron Age.
  - While the iron recovered at Sivakalai **belonged to 3,300 BC**, the metal artefact excavated at Adichanallur was from 2,613 BC.
  - Hence, this carbon dating has proved that Tamils had used iron even **5,300 years ago**.
- It has been a major venue for social movement gatherings and political meetings, including those of the **Justice Praty**.
- It is widely regarded as the **cradle of Dravidian Movement**.

### **A flood submerged the Keezhadi settlement a thousand years ago**

- Archaeological excavations at **Keezhadi on the banks of the Vaigai river** reveal evidence of an urban settlement.
- Findings include brick structures, canals, floors, and pottery, aligning with descriptions in **Sangam literature**.
- A new scientific study has established an environmental timeline for the site.
- Based on these results, researchers concluded that the “urban-like” structures at Keezhadi were buried around 1,155 years ago due to **major flooding of the Vaigai river**.
- Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory and the Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu used optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating to analyse burial sediments.
- This technique estimates when mineral grains were last exposed to sunlight.
- Highlights the role of natural environmental events in shaping the history and decline of ancient settlements.
- Keezhadi, located in **Sivaganga district**, lies on a mound within the **Vaigai floodplain**.

### **CM inaugurates Restored Victoria Public Hall in Chennai**

- Built in 1888 in the **Indo Saracenic architectural style**, the hall named after **Queen Victoria**.

### **Annual Thirukkural Week celebration**

- **Background:** The Government of Tamil

Nadu has approved the annual celebration of Thirukkural Week starting from January 2026.

- **Objective:** To propagate the greatness and values of Thirukkural among the general public.

### **Keezhadi Excavation**

- The Central Government has granted permission for the 11th phase of archaeological excavations in **Keezhadi, Sivaganga district**.
- This permission was granted after the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology submitted the report of the 10th phase of excavations to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- So far, **only about 4% of the Keezhadi site** has been excavated.
- The 11th phase of excavation aims to uncover new information about the ancient civilization that flourished **on the banks of the Vaigai River**.
- Through scientific studies and carbon dating methods, the artifacts found in Keezhadi have been proven to belong to the **period between the 6th and 3rd centuries BCE**.

### **Keezhadi**

- It is located in the **Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu**, on the banks of the **Vaigai River**, approximately 12 km southeast of Madurai.
- Archaeological excavations were started in 2015 under the leadership of **Amarnath Ramakrishna**.
- The first three excavations were conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Subsequently, the work was undertaken by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology**.

- More than 120 pottery shards inscribed with **Tamil-Brahmi script** indicate early literacy and a long-standing continuity of the writing system.
- This indicates a well-planned **urban settlement**.
- Evidence has been found for organized industries such as pottery, weaving, dyeing, and bead-making.
- **Agate and carnelian beads** point to long-distance trade networks.

### **Republic Day parade**

- **Background:** The Central Home Ministry has given its approval for the Tamil Nadu government's tableau to be included in the Republic Day parade to be held in Delhi on January 26, 2026.

### **Tamil Nadu Tableaux**

- **2024** : The Tamil Nadu tableau highlighting the glory of the Kudavolai system was featured.
- **2025** : The Tamil Nadu tableau was not included.
- **2026** : The Tamil Nadu government's tableau, created based on the theme of "Green Energy," has now received approval.

## **REPORT / SURVEY**

### **Study on Leprosy Hotspots in Chennai**

- A study titled "**Urban Hotspots of Leprosy: Child and Migrant-linked Transmission in Chennai, 2021-2025**" analysed leprosy trends

using programme data from **15 administrative zones**.

eastern regions, with major concentrations in the **Western Ghats**.

▪ Published in the **Tamil Nadu Journal of Public Health and Medical Research**.

### **India's first Spring Census**

▪ Conducted by the **Directorate of Medical & Rural Health Services (Leprosy)** across **15 zones** of Chennai.

▪ Officially launched on **3 April 2025** by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

▪ India became the **first country in the world** to conduct a **national-level census of springs**.

▪ Aligned with **Water Vision 2047** and **UN SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**.

### **Key findings**

▪ **515 new leprosy cases** recorded in Chennai over 5 years.

## **ECONOMY**

▪ Overall **ANCDR (Annual New Case Detection Rate)**:

### **Tamil Nadu tops in industrial energy efficiency**

• 1.0 per 1,00,000 (2021) → 1.3 (2025)

• Temporary spike **>2.0** during **2022–23**.

▪ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that **Tamil Nadu ranks first in India in industrial energy efficiency**, scoring **55.3%**.

▪ **Six zones** showed ANCDR above 2.0 (range **2.0–4.9**), mainly: 3 industrial hubs & 3 border zones.

▪ In industrial energy efficiency, **Tamil Nadu has scored 55.3 percent in Group 1 of the State Energy Efficiency Index 2024**.

Majority of detected cases occurred among **migrant workers** from other States.

▪ Tamil Nadu has set a record by achieving the **top position** in the Indian level.

### **Tamil Nadu Spring Census**

▪ **Context:** Tamil Nadu is set to complete its **first-ever spring census** this month to aid **groundwater conservation**.

▪ **Andhra Pradesh** leads **Group 2** with 27.5 percent. Odisha has grown by 23.1 percent, Chhattisgarh by 28.8 percent, Madhya Pradesh by 16.5 percent and Tripura by 10.9 percent, making strong progress.

▪ The census is part of a **nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti** for springshed and groundwater management in ecologically sensitive regions.

▪ **Tamil Nadu is also among the top 3 states** with the highest number of certified green buildings.

▪ **Nodal agency:** Water Resources Department (WRD).

▪ In recognition of energy conservation efforts, 25 states have received Energy Conservation Awards.

▪ **Natural springs in Tamil Nadu are relatively few** compared to the Himalayan and north-

- **Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Odisha** received the **highest number of awards**, followed by Gujarat
- The initiative aims to enhance the state's economy, targeting a **\$1 trillion economy by 2030**.

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- Tamil Nadu ranks **3<sup>rd</sup> in India** in attracting foreign investment.
- SIPCOT focuses on sector-specific parks, innovation centres, and sustainable housing for workers, playing a crucial role in Tamil Nadu's industrial landscape.

### India's Total FDI Status

States that Attracted the Highest FDI	Countries with Highest Investment	FDI Sector-wise Investment
Maharashtra: \$1,057 crore	Singapore: \$1,194 crore	Computer Software and Hardware: \$900 crore
Karnataka: \$940 crore	United States: \$662 crore	Services Sector: \$500 crore
Tamil Nadu: \$357 crore	Mauritius: \$347 crore	Trading Sector: \$278 crore
Haryana: \$322 crore	United Arab Emirates: \$233 crore	Renewable Energy Sector: \$200 crore

### SIPCOT Industrial Park

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister** inaugurated **Bigtech's Gorilla Glass manufacturing unit** at **SIPCOT Industrial Park, Pillaipakkam**, Kancheepuram district.
- **Ranked first** in India's exports at **\$14.65 billion**
- Contributes **41% of India's total electronics exports**
- Achieved **9-fold growth** in electronics sector over the last 4 years.
- TN aims to become a global hub for electronics manufacturing:
  - Launched **Electronic Components Manufacturing Initiative** to cover the entire value chain (design to production).
- Global electronics giants have set up units in **Kancheepuram, Hosur, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, and Tirunelveli**.
- TN is setting up a new **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in Thoothukudi**, with excellent port connectivity.

### About SIPCOT Industrial Park

- SIPCOT, or the **State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu**, was established in **1971** to foster industrial growth in Tamil Nadu.
- With **50 industrial parks**, it has facilitated over **3,290 industrial units** and generated millions of jobs.
- **Tamil Nadu's Economic Growth**
- **Tamil Nadu ranked first** among Indian States with **16% economic growth in 2024-25**.
- This has been stated in the report titled **'Statistics on Indian States'** released by the **Reserve Bank of India**.

- Tamil Nadu's **GSDP increased from ₹26.89 lakh crore (2023-24) to ₹31.18 lakh crore (2024-25)** at current prices.
- The State has **retained the top growth position for three consecutive years.**
- Tamil Nadu has **retained the top position for three consecutive years**, surpassing industrialized states like **Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.**
- Tamil Nadu's GDP rose from ₹20.72 lakh crore (2021-22) to ₹31.18 lakh crore (2024-25).
- State-wise GDP Rankings (2024-25)
  - Maharashtra: ₹45.31 lakh crore (largest economy)
  - Tamil Nadu: ₹31.18 lakh crore
  - Uttar Pradesh: ₹29.78 lakh crore
  - Karnataka: ₹28.83 lakh crore
  - Gujarat: ₹26.72 lakh crore
- Tamil Nadu's per capita income rose from **₹2.42 lakh (2021-22) to ₹3.62 lakh (2024-25)**
- Tamil Nadu ranks **third** in per capita income among States.
  - Top per capita income States: **Telangana:** ₹3.87 lakh (1<sup>st</sup>) & **Karnataka:** ₹3.80 lakh (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- **Delhi (UT)** recorded the highest per capita income at **₹4.93 lakh.**

### **RBI's Study on Tamil Nadu Agriculture**

- Agriculture is the weak spot of Tamil Nadu's economy.
- The sector has registered only a negative growth in the last two years (2023-24 and 2024-25), according to a perusal of the **Reserve Bank of India's latest handbook of statistics on Indian States.**
- Rice remains the lead component of the total food grains, coarse cereals, especially millets, come next, with pulses contributing marginally.

### **COMMITTEE**

#### **Tamil Nadu Pension Committee Report 2025**

- **Context:** A three-member Pension Committee submitted its final report to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. The committee examined three pension schemes

#### **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**

- **Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS)**
- **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** (in force for Central government employees since April 1, 2025)

#### **Committee Members**

- Chairperson: **Gagandeep Singh Bedi**
- Members: **K.R. Shanmugam** and **Pratik Tayal**

## NATIONAL - NEWS

### Ellora Caves

- Scottish historian William Dalrymple has urged the Maharashtra government to bring greater visibility to the lesser-known heritage sites around the Ellora Caves.

#### About Ellora Caves

- Located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra, the Ellora Caves are among India's first UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- The cave complex was carved between 600 CE and 1000 CE, spanning the rule of the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Yadavas.
- Religious Pluralism: The complex comprises 34 major caves, 12 Buddhist, 17 Hindu, and 5 Jain, demonstrating a unique period of interreligious harmony and artistic exchange.

#### Key Architectural Features

- Kailasa Temple (Cave 16): It is carved from a single monolithic basalt rock, dedicated to the Hindu god Lord Shiva.
- Its design replicates Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva, and integrates complex Dravida-style architecture, multi-level mandapas, sculptural panels, and detailed narrative friezes.
- Multi-Religious Harmony: Rare archaeological site exhibiting Hindu-Buddhist-Jain coexistence across centuries.

### Sanchar Saathi App

- The **Sanchar Saathi portal** was launched by the **Department of Telecommunications** on **May 16, 2023**.
- The **Sanchar Saathi app** was launched in **January 2025**.

- It provides a web portal and a mobile app to citizens to improve mobile phone security and awareness. It allows users to report lost or stolen phones.
- Helps users prevent mobile fraud and access government-related services.
- Government mandates all new smartphones to include the **Sanchar Saathi app** for cybersecurity.

### India Re-Elected to UNESCO Executive Board

- India re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–29 term.
- UNESCO Executive Board: A key constitutional body that guides programme implementation and shapes the organisation's strategic priorities.
- India's re-election reflects global confidence in its multilateral commitment.

#### About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- It is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in **education, arts, sciences, and culture**
- UNESCO was founded in 1945 as the successor to the **League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation**.
- Headquartered at the **World Heritage Centre in Paris**

### India's longest glass skywalk

- The bridge has been opened for public use in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This glass footbridge, known as 'Skywalk', is located on the top of Mount Kailash in Visakhapatnam.

- It is built as a 55-meter-long can-delivery bridge at a height of about 1,000 feet above sea level.
- The glass of the bridge, built by the Visakhapatnam Municipal Development Authority at a cost of Rs. 7 crore, was imported from Germany.

### National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

- Recently, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) celebrated its Silver Jubilee and also released commemorative postage stamps.

#### About National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

- It was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1998.
- It was formerly known as the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR).
- It has been at the forefront of leading India's scientific expeditions and research programmes in the Polar Regions and the Southern Ocean.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences Government of India
- **Location:** Vasco da Gama, Goa.

### DHRUVA System

- The Department of Posts has released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023 to introduce DHRUVA – Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address.

#### About DHRUVA

- It is a pioneering Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative designed to revolutionize the structure and management of addresses across India by assigning a unique digital address to every home.
- Based on Address-as-a-Service (AaaS), it enables secure, consent-based sharing of

geo-coded address information through a seamless digital platform.

- It has been developed entirely in India, fostering indigenous technology and domestic innovation.

▪ **Objective:** It can reduce delivery costs in e-commerce, postal and logistics, and enhances resource planning in telecom, broadband, and urban governance.

▪ **Layers:** It consists of 2 key layers:

- **Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN):** DIGIPIN is a 10-digit alphanumeric code that represents exact geographic coordinates (latitude-longitude), created using 4x4 meter grids across India.

- It gives every location a unique identity using geospatial data.

- **Digital Address Layer:** A user-friendly, consent-based system built on DIGIPIN, letting users create custom labels and descriptive addresses (e.g., house numbers, street names etc) linked to their DIGIPIN.

### 100-Day Intensive Awareness Campaign for a Child Marriage Free Bharat

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development launched a 100-day intensive awareness campaign to prevent child marriages on 4.12.25.
- The Saradha Act was brought in 1929 to prevent child marriages. The last law enacted in 2006 is currently in force.

### 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO

#### Intergovernmental Committee

- India will host the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 8 to 13 December 2025 in New Delhi.

### About Intergovernmental Committee

- UNESCO defines Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) as the practices, knowledge, expressions, objects, and spaces that communities recognize as integral to their cultural identity.
- For the Safeguarding of ICH, UNESCO adopted the **2003 Convention on 17th October 2003** during its **32<sup>nd</sup> General Conference in Paris**.
- **Membership:**
  - It has **24 members** who are elected for a **term of four years**.
  - The election of new members takes place every two years during the ordinary session of the General Assembly of States Parties.
  - **India is currently a member of the committee (2022-2026).**

### 150 Years of Vande Mataram

- Written by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee on 7 November 1875**.
- Music composed by **Rabindranath Tagore**.
- Declared **National Song on 24 January 1950**.
- **Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo** started a newspaper titled **"Vande Mataram."**
- **Mahatma Gandhi** adopted it as the national song in **1905**.
- **V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (VOC)** inscribed the name **"Vande Mataram"** on a Swadeshi ship in **1907**.
- **Subramania Bharathi** translated **Vande Mataram into Tamil**.

### Deepavali on UNESCO Heritage List

- Deepavali has been **inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- The announcement was made during the **20<sup>th</sup>**

session of UNESCO's **Intergovernmental Committee at, New Delhi**.

- **Purpose:** Safeguard living cultural heritage.
- Intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and individuals recognize as a part of their cultural heritage.
- India currently has **16 elements** on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including **Durga Puja in Kolkata, Garba of Gujarat, Kumbh Mela, Yoga, Sankirtana (Manipur), Vedic chanting, and Ramlila**.

### Release of Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar Commemorative Postage Stamp

- Vice President released the commemorative postage stamp of Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar.

### About Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar

- He belonged to the **Mutharaiyar dynasty** that ruled **Tamil Nadu** from the **7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD**.
- He was also known as **Suvaran Maran**.
- Mutharaiyars were the **feudatories of the Pallavas**.

### Sahakar Sarathi Initiative

- The Government of India has operationalised Sahakar Sarathi, a Shared Service Entity, to strengthen and modernise Rural Cooperative Banks across the country.
- Aims to enable RCBs to deliver standardised, technology-driven banking services comparable to other regulated banking institutions.
- It was registered on **21 July 2025** after RBI approval.
- Services include common and modern Core Banking Solutions, digital payment platforms

such as AePS and UPI, and related digital channels.

### India's First Wildlife Safe Road

- The National Highways Authority of India has introduced India's first wildlife-safe road on National Highway 45 in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Aim:** To reduce animal-vehicle collisions while balancing highway development with wildlife conservation in ecologically sensitive regions.
- The project passes through Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

### Lithium refinery in Telangana

- Singareni Collieries Company (SCCL) and Hyderabad-based Altmin have signed a memorandum of understanding.
- The project aims to set up **India's first large-scale battery-grade lithium refinery**.
- The refinery will be located in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The refinery is targeted to commence **operations by 2027**.
- The project includes plans to secure **long-term raw material supply** via overseas mineral assets, strengthening India's energy security.
- The initiative aims to **reduce India's dependence** on imported refined lithium.
- **Lithium** is a **critical mineral** for EVs, batteries, and the clean energy transition.

### Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan Initiative

- It's a flagship programme jointly led by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Tourism.
- The initiative focuses on opening strategically **significant border locations to tourism**.

▪ **Cho La and Dok La** pass open for tourists under the "Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan" initiative.

▪ This vision aligns with the Government of India's **Vibrant Villages Programme**, which seeks to accelerate development in border areas.

### Bharat Taxi

- Bharat Taxi' service launched in **Delhi from January 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- It is **India's first cooperative taxi service**, an alternative to Ola, Uber, and Rapido.
- Bharat Taxi is a digital platform that provides taxi services across India.
- It is operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited**.
- The leading organizations are the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and Digital India Corporation (MeitY)

### Kerala's Model Electric Truck (E-Truck) Corridor Initiative

- Kerala plans to develop a **model electric truck (e-truck) corridor along NH-66**.
- Part of the State's efforts to promote **freight electrification**.
- Initiative aligned with the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme of the Centre.

### PM E-DRIVE

- PM E-DRIVE (Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement)
- Aim is to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), establish charging infrastructure, and build a robust EV manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

- **Target beneficiaries:**
  - Commercial and private **electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers** with advanced batteries
  - **e-ambulances, e-trucks** with scrapping certificates
  - **electric buses for public transport.**

### **SabhaSaar – AI Tool for Grama Sabha Meetings**

- **Context:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched SabhaSaar, an AI-enabled voice-to-text meeting summarisation tool, to strengthen transparency and efficiency in grassroots governance.
- SabhaSaar is built on **AI-enabled cloud infrastructure.**
- Portal functions under the **India AI Mission** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- **India AI Mission** acts as the **nodal agency** for governance of:
  - AI infrastructure
  - Data generated through SabhaSaar

### **MLFF Toll Collection System 2026**

- The central government plans to implement the **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)** toll collection system and **artificial intelligence-based highway management** across the country by the end of 2026.
- This system will completely eliminate waiting times at toll plazas and improve travel efficiency.
- Vehicles will be able to pass through toll plaza areas without stopping, at a speed of 80 km/h.
- The MLFF system will automatically collect tolls through artificial intelligence-based

license plate recognition, satellite tracking, and FASTag integration.

### **India's First Forestry University**

- **India's first forestry university** is to be established in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- This university will focus on forestry, wildlife, and environmental science.

### **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)**

- **CONTEXT:** The government will constitute the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), which will be a dedicated body to oversee the security of vessels and port facilities in the country
- **Modelled on: Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).**
- **Statutory Status:** To be constituted as a **statutory body under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.**

### **Administrative Control: Functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**

#### **Core Functions:**

- Regulatory and oversight functions relating to security of ships and port facilities.
- Collection, analysis, and exchange of security-related information.
- Special focus on Cybersecurity

### **Centre's Plan for Online Forest Rights Services**

- **Context:** The Union government is developing a national web portal to try and take the entire process of forest rights recognition and management online.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- **Objective:** Streamline recognition, management, and monitoring of forest rights under the FRA, 2006.

## Development Communication and Republic Day Festivities to Showcase Information Dissemination Programme 'Vande Mataram' Theme (DCID)

- **Objective:** To disseminate information to rural, tribal, remote, and urban populations.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- **Key initiatives:** Information about schemes such as Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan, and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is disseminated to the public.
- **Chief Guests:**
  - European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen
  - European Council President Antonio Costa.
- **Republic Day Details**
  - **77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day** celebrations on **January 26**.
  - Theme: "Vande Mataram" (National Song).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- The World Health Organization's (WHO) global summit on traditional medicine began in New Delhi on December 17.
- **Theme:** 'Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being'.
- Reiterated India's commitment to **global leadership in traditional medicine**.
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine has been established in **Jamnagar**.
- Prime Minister emphasized India's focus on "Partnerships of Healing" globally.
- Two Key Collaborations
  - Establishment of a **Center of Excellence for BIMSTEC** countries covering South and South Asia.
  - **Collaboration with Japan** aimed at integrating science, traditional practices and health
- Summit showcased:
  - **Digital health technologies**
  - **AI-based tools**
  - **Research innovations**
  - **Modern wellness infrastructure**
- **Significance of the Theme:**
  - Marks **150 years** since the publication (1875) of the first two stanzas of **Vande Mataram**.
  - The song played a key role during the rally of **India's freedom movement**.

## National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- **Context:** India and the Netherlands signed a MoU to cooperate on the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat**.
- NMHC is a **flagship cultural and heritage project** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**.
- **Aim:** To showcase **India's 4,500-5,000-year-old maritime legacy** through a world-class museum and cultural complex.
- Developed as **India's first comprehensive national institution** dedicated **exclusively to maritime heritage**.

### Significance of NMHC at Lothal:

- Showcases India's 4,500-year-old maritime legacy.
- Part of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization cultural landscape.
- Recognised for the discovery of the world's earliest known man-made dockyard.
- The Lothal dockyard connected the settlement to ancient maritime trade routes linking Sindh, Saurashtra, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and beyond.

### Reduction in MMR

- **Context:** The rate of institutional deliveries in the country has increased to 89%, which led to a significant reduction in the MMR.
- **Maternal Death-**Death of a woman during pregnancy or within **42 days** of termination, due to causes related to or worsened by pregnancy.
- **MMR-** It is the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in a given time period.
- India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (**MMR**) stands at **93 per 1 lakh live births** (2019–21)
- **Data**
  - India's MMR: 93
  - Kerala: Lowest (20) and Assam: Highest (167)
  - Tamil Nadu (49).

### India's Largest Labyrinth

- In the Boramani grasslands of the Solapur district in Maharashtra, archaeologists recently discovered a remarkable circular labyrinth. It has been identified as the largest ever found in India.

- A large square-shaped labyrinth was discovered in Kidimedu (Tiruppur) in Tamil Nadu.

### Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP)

- India's largest hydropower project, the 2,000-megawatt Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, has commenced operations after nearly 20 years, with its first 250-megawatt unit becoming operational.

### About the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project:

- The Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project is a run-of-river hydroelectric project with an installed capacity of **2,000 megawatts**. When fully operational, it will be India's largest hydroelectric project.
- **Location:** Gerukamukh, on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.
- **Implementing Agency:** NHPC Limited (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation)
- **River Course:** Built on the Subansiri River, the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra River.

### India's first PPP-model medical colleges

- The Union Health Minister has announced that the first public-private partnership (PPP) model medical colleges will be established in the tribal districts of Dhar and Betul in Madhya Pradesh state.

### 100 years of Communist Party of India (CPI)

- The revolutionary slogan "Inquilab Zindabad", coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani – who chaired the Reception Committee of the historic Kanpur Conference.

### **CPI lead historic movements for land and dignity**

- The Tebhaga movement in Bengal that asserted peasants' rights over their produce.
- The Punnapra-Vayalar struggle in Kerala against landlord tyranny.
- The militant land struggles of Thanjavur delta
- The founding of the CPI in December 1925 at Kanpur.
- Singaravelar from Tamil Nadu took part in the conference. It was from there that the Communist Party of India was established formally with Bombay as its headquarters.

### **NATGRID Linked to NPR**

- NATGRID is a secure platform that allows police and investigating agencies to access multiple government and private databases in real time.
- The NPR is the first step for the creation of a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- **Aim:** To improve intelligence gathering and speed up criminal investigations using secure, indigenous systems.
- Upgraded NADGRID tools support multi source data collection and analysis. One such tool is 'Gandiva' used for facial recognition and entity resolution.

### **Tuberculosis in India**

- **Context:** Indian Council for Medical Research-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis and Women's Collective Forum has urged sweeping changes in medical education and hospital practices.

- India still accounts for about 27% of global TB cases.

### **About Tuberculosis**

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- It spreads through airborne transmission, mainly inhaling tiny droplets released from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person.
- Tuberculosis incidence in India has **dropped to below 200 per lakh (2022)** from 237 per lakh (2015), **marking a 16% decline**.
- TB-related deaths **have decreased by 18%** since 2015, now at 23 per lakh population.
- The National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) to emphasize the aim of the Government of India to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets of 2030.
- **Best Performing States:** Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat.
- **Lowest Performing States:** Punjab, Bihar, Karnataka
- **March 24 is observed as World Tuberculosis (TB) Day**
- **Tamil Nadu performance**
  - Tamil Nadu has significantly reduced TB-related deaths by implementing the TN-KET (Kasanoi Erappila Thittam) using a simple triage tool and a differentiated care model.
  - Tamil Nadu has become the first Indian state to integrate a predictive model for tuberculosis (TB) deaths into its TB elimination programme.

## India's Commitment to Ending Child

### Marriage

- Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India has pledged to eliminate child marriage by 2030.
- According to **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** data, the prevalence of child marriage declined from **47.4% (2005–06)** to **23.3% (2019–21)**.
- The highest incidence of child marriage among women aged 18–29 years is observed in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura.

### Legal Framework Against Child Marriage

- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
- Sustainable Development Goal 5.3: Elimination of child marriage
- Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Abhiyan: A national campaign launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to eradicate child marriage in India

### National Standard for Incense Sticks

- IS 19412:2025 is India's first national standard for incense sticks.
- The standard prohibits pesticides such as permethrin and cypermethrin.
- It also bans synthetic fragrance intermediates, including benzyl cyanide.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

## India's First National weapons

### Database

- To strengthen **internal security**, the Central Government has launched **India's first national arms database**.
- The initiative aims to **curb terrorism, organised crime, and extremism**.
- Name: **Lost, Looted and Recovered Firearm Database**
- Launched at: **Anti-Terrorism Conference 2025**
- Developed by: **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- The database focuses **only on government-owned firearms**

National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

### 2,000-Year-Old Buddhist Site Discovered in Jammu and Kashmir

- Excavations at **Zehanpora** village in Baramulla district have revealed a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site.
- Archaeologists believe Zehanpora may have functioned as an important Buddhist centre with links to the elusive **Kushan capital, Huvishkapura**.
- The architectural features of stupa foundations and monastic cells show close resemblance to **Gandharan layouts**.
- Kushan dynasty patronised Buddhism in **north-western India**. **Gandharan architecture** influenced early Buddhist structures.

## President Droupadi Murmu – Submarine Journey Union Government to Host Mega AI Impact Summit

- **Background:** President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, undertook a voyage on the indigenously built submarine **INS Vagir** at the **Karwar naval base in Karnataka** on December 28.
- **Achievement: Second Indian President to travel in a submarine**
- **First President:** Abdul Kalam (2006, INS **Sindhurakshak**)
- **Features of INS Vagsheer:**
  - This sixth submarine in the Scorpène class (Project 75) series is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines in the world. It is capable of conducting anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and special operations.
  - Project-75 (India) aims to build 18 conventional submarines and six nuclear submarines for the Indian Navy.
- **Context:** India will host the **AI Impact Summit** in **February**, with preparations on a scale comparable to the **G-20 Summit 2023**.
- Around **1,00,000 participants** are anticipated for the main summit.
- The AI summit is part of an **annual multilateral series** that began at **Bletchley Park (UK) in 2023**, followed by **Seoul (2024)** and **Paris (2025)**, where India was chosen to host the **2026 edition**.
- AI Impact Summit 2026 at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Key discussion themes**
  - AI and its impact on work
  - Trust and safety protocols for AI models
  - Using AI in specific industries.

## NATIONAL SCHEMES

### The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), a Mission Mode Project under the **Digital India programme**, is accelerating the shift toward paperless law-making across India.
- **Objective:** To modernise and digitise legislative processes across the country.
- **Adoption status:**
  - 28 State/UT Legislatures have signed MoUs to adopt NeVA.
  - 20 Legislatures have already become fully digital Houses.
- **Bhashini AI** tools enable translation and speech-to-text features for linguistic inclusivity.

### Prime Minister's Internship Scheme

- **Context:** While the PM Internship Scheme's pilot project has exceeded its target of providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in a year, it has found few takers among India's youth, data presented to Parliament show.

#### About PM Internship Scheme

- Announced in Budget 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling.
- **Aim:** To provide 1 crore youth with hands-on work experience in top 500 companies over five years, enhancing employability and skill development.
- **Managed by:** Managed through an online portal by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
- **Budget:** ₹2 lakh crore overall, with ₹2,000 crore allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25.

#### Criteria:

- Youth aged 21-24 who are not in full-time employment or education.
- Must hold qualifications like high school diplomas, ITI certificates, or graduate degrees (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., B.Com).
- Excludes candidates from IITs, IIMs, and those holding advanced degrees (e.g., MBA, CA).

#### Features:

- 12-month internships with a stipend of ₹5,000 (₹4,500 from the government, ₹500 from companies).
- Interns are insured under government schemes like PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.
- A one-time ₹6,000 grant for incidentals.
- Multilingual helpline and grievance redressal system.

### Rooftop Solar Power Generation Scheme

- **Asian Development Bank** will provide Rs 5,780 crore loan to India for rooftop solar power generation.

#### Objective:

- To accelerate the implementation of solar power generation projects on rooftops of houses and buildings.
- To promote the Prime Minister's Solar Power Generation Scheme.

- **Target:** By 2027, 1 crore (10 million) households will be able to generate electricity at low cost.

- **National Target:** Will help achieve India's target of generating 30 gigawatts of electricity through rooftop solar panels.

## Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- Context: Indian Prime Minister stated that the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will generate new employment opportunities for about 3.5 crore youth.

### About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- It is a national employment-linked incentive scheme to promote job creation in formal sectors, especially manufacturing, as part of the Viksit Bharat initiative.
- **Launch Date:** Effective from 1st August 2025
- **Administered By:** Ministry of Labour and Employment through Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- **Implementation Period:** 2025–2027
- **Key Features of PM-VBRY:**
  - **Part A:** Benefits for First Time Employees
  - It targets first-time employees registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
  - One-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments.
  - **Part B:** Benefits for Employers Creating Jobs
  - Employers will receive incentives in respect of new employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.
  - Up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employment, sustained for at least six months.

### Eklavya Model Schools

- **Context:** Over one-third of Eklavya schools remain non-functional due to land issues,

prompting the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment advised the Ministry of Tribal Affairs not to sanction new schools until land is secured.

### About Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- It is a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in 1998 to provide free, quality residential education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from Class VI to XII in remote and tribal-dominated areas.
- **Objective:** To bridge the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal populations by offering CBSE-based instruction integrated with holistic development, including sports, culture, and skill training.
- **Revamp & Expansion:**
  - The scheme was revamped in 2018–19 to expand coverage.
  - EMRSs are now to be established in blocks with more than 50% ST population and with at least 20,000 tribal persons with a target of 728 schools by 2026.
- EMRSs are implemented and managed by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under MoTA.
- **Other Initiatives for Tribal Education**
  - Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)
  - Vocational Training Centres
  - National Overseas Scholarship Scheme
  - Post-Matric Scholarships

## National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme

- **Context:** The Ministry of MSME is expanding the National SC/ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme to support entrepreneurship among SC/ST communities and enhance their participation in public procurement and markets.

### About National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme

- It is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
- It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC).
- **Aim:** Capacity enhancement of SC/ST entrepreneurs and promoting “entrepreneurship culture” amongst the SC/ST population.
- **Supports 4% procurement from SC/ST-owned Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) under the Public Procurement Policy.**
- The initiative provides financial assistance and facilitates access to credit for SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- It also focuses on skill development and capacity building of SC/ST entrepreneurs.

## Shakti Scholar Young Research Fellowship

- The National Commission for Women has launched the 'Shakti Scholar' young research fellowship on women-related policy issues.
- About the Shakti Scholars Young Research Fellowship
- The Shakti Scholars Young Research Fellowship is a 6-month program that supports scholars conducting research on women's issues in India.
- It promotes academic and policy-oriented research on:

- Gender equality, Women's safety
- Women's empowerment

- This is an initiative of the National Commission for Women (NCW).

## 25th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) completed 25 years in December 2025, marking a major milestone in India's rural infrastructure development.

### Key Features of PMGSY

- A centrally sponsored scheme
- **Objective:** To provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations, linking them to markets, schools, and health facilities
- **Launched on:** 25 December 2000
- **Implemented by:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- **PMGSY-IV (2024-29):** Connectivity to 25,000 habitations through 62,500 km of roads

## Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

- The Government has approved the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet' with a financial outlay of Rs.7,280 crore.
- REPM are amongst the strongest types of permanent magnets and are used extensively in technologies requiring compact and high-performance magnetic components.
- By building a domestic integrated ecosystem, the initiative is intended to enhance self-reliance in a critical input for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics, aerospace and defence, and to position India as a key player in the global REPM market.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Mines
- **Implementation Period** - 7 years

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Pollution Control Day

- **Observed on:** 2 December every year in India.
- **Purpose:** To commemorate the lives lost in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984, which involved a leak of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas. It also aims to spread awareness about the consequences of industrial and other forms of pollution.
- **Theme 2025:** 'Sustainable Living for a Greener Future'.

### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

- **Observed on:** 2 December every year worldwide.
- The observance commemorates the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- **Theme 2025:** "Acknowledge the past. Repair the present. Build a future of dignity and justice".

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- **Date:** December 3.
- **Objective:** To recognize services for persons with disabilities.
- **Theme:** "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress."

### Key Initiatives of the Tamil Nadu

#### Government

- **Award Recognition:** The Government of Tamil Nadu encourages this by presenting State Awards.
- **Government Objective:** To provide equal rights and equal opportunities to persons with

disabilities, enabling them to live with self-respect in society.

- **Tamil Nadu Urimaigal Thittam:** Implemented to provide doorstep assistance based on the principle of 'Everything for Everyone'.
- **Funding:** Implemented with loan assistance from the World Bank.
- **Operation:** Integrating services from various departments to ensure that all rehabilitation services are available in the areas where persons with disabilities reside.
- **Livelihood Development:** Providing maintenance allowance. Allocation of house sites and houses in urban and rural areas.
- **Power Sharing:** Legislative amendments have been made to the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies system.
- Through this, persons with disabilities are appointed as members in all local bodies through nomination, enabling them to participate in policy-making authority.

### Navy Day 2025

- The Indian Navy celebrated Navy Day 2025 with a large-scale Operational Demonstration at Shangumugham Beach in Thiruvananthapuram on 3rd-4th December 2025.
- Navy Day is celebrated on 4th December to honour India's decisive naval victory during Operation Trident in the 1971 India-Pakistan War.

### International Cheetah Day

- Every year 4th December is marked as International Cheetah Day since 2010.
- American zoologist, Dr. Laurie Marker, founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in 1991, designated this day in honor of Khayam, a cheetah she raised.

- All cheetah subspecies are listed as vulnerable by the IUCN, except the Northwest African and Asiatic cheetah which are critically endangered at present.

### World Soil Day 2025

- Celebrated annually on December 5.
- 2025 Theme: "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities."

### International Volunteer Day 2025

- **Date:** December 5, 2025.
- **Theme 2025:** "Every Contribution Matters."
- **Established by:** United Nations General Assembly in 1985.

### National Handicrafts Week

- Observed annually from 8th–14th December.
- The Week includes exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, discussions, outreach and cultural programmes to celebrate India's artisans and craft traditions.

### Armed Forces Flag Day

- It has been observed annually on 7 December in India since 1949.
- Indian Armed Forces Flag Day dedicated to honouring the soldiers and ex-servicemen of the Indian Armed Forces.

### International Anti-Corruption Day 2025

- Observed every year on 9 December.
- Established by the United Nations in 2003.
- **Theme for 2025:** "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity."

### International Human Rights Day

- Observed annually on 10 December.
- Commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.
- The theme for 2025: "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials"

### National Energy Conservation Day 2025

- National Energy Conservation Day is observed in India every year on 14 December.
- **Theme 2025:** "Advancing sustainable energy innovation and citizen participation".
- It is organized under the guidance of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power.

### Vijay Diwas 2025

- Observed on **December 16**
- Anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in **1971 Indo-Pak war** which led to the **creation of Bangladesh**
- 2025 marks **54<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

### International Migrants Day

- Observed annually on **December 18**
- **Theme 2025:** My Great Story: Cultures and Development
- It marks the adoption of the **UN Convention on Migrant Workers (1990)**.

### Minorities Rights Day

- Minorities Rights Day is observed on **18 December** in India to mark the **UN Declaration on Minority Rights (1992)**.
- **Theme 2025:** Protecting Constitutional Rights, Empowerment through schemes, social inclusion and Ensuring Safety and Equality
- **Articles 29 and 30** are the core constitutional safeguards for minorities.

### Goa Liberation Day

- Goa Liberation Day 2025 is observed on **19 December**.
- To commemorate the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule in **1961** through **Operation Vijay**.

**International Human Solidarity Day**

- It observed on **December 20**
- This year's theme for International Human Solidarity Day 2025 is **"Solidarity for Sustainable Development: Uniting Communities for a Shared Future."**

the previous consumer grievance redressal systems.

**World Meditation Day**

- Observed on **December 21**.
- World Meditation Day to affirm the right of every individual to attain superior physical and mental health.

**Winter Solstice 2025**

- Observed on **December 21**
- Marking the shortest day and longest night in the Northern Hemisphere.

**National Mathematics Day 2025**

- Observed on **December 22** to mark the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

**National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) 2025**

- Observed on **December 23** to honour farmers and mark the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902-1987)** (also known as "Champion of India's Farmers")
- He was India's **fifth Prime Minister (1979-1980)**. The day was officially declared in **2001**.

**National Consumer Day**

- It is observed in India every year on **December 24**.
- **2025 THEME:** "Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice"
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- Central Consumer Protection Authority, 2020
- **e-Jagruti 2025-** e-Jagruti has emerged as an integrated digital platform that consolidates

**Good Governance Day 2025**

- Good Governance Day is observed on **December 25, 2025**, to commemorate the birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- This day emphasizes **transparent, accountable, and people-centric good governance** and honours Vajpayee's visionary leadership and democratic values.
- Good Governance Week 2025 is being observed from 19 to 25 December 2025 under the "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign, focusing on citizen-centric governance and doorstep redressal of public grievances.

**126th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh**

- The birth anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh, observed on **26 December**.
- A revolutionary who dedicated his life to avenging the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.
- He assassinated **Michael O'Dwyer** during a public meeting at Caxton Hall in London.
- Associated with **Ghadar Party**

**Veer Bal Diwas 2025**

- Veer Bal Diwas 2025 is observed on **December 26**.
- To honour the sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.

**International Day of Epidemic Preparedness**

- Observed annually on **27 December**.
- Highlights the importance of **prevention, preparedness, and response to epidemics**.

## REPORTS & INDICES

### Asia Power Index

- The Asia Power Index is an annual assessment that measures the ability of countries to shape and respond to their external environment and evaluates the power dynamics of countries across Asia.
- It is published annually by the Australia-based think tank, Lowy Institute
- India scored 40.0 out of 100, secured the third rank, and crossed the threshold for “major power” status for the first time.
- India ranks third for two measures: economic capability and future resources.
- India’s weakest area is defence networks, where it ranks 11th.

### Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- India’s Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew only 0.4% in October 2025 – the slowest growth in 14 months.

#### About Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- It is a key statistical tool used to measure the short-term changes in the volume of production in Indian industries.
- The IIP is published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), which is part of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The current base year for the index is 2011–12.
- Eight Core Industries Weight in IIP: 40.27%.
- Industry & Weight (In percentage): Petroleum & Refinery production (28.04%), Electricity

generation (19.85 %), Steel production (17.92%), Coal production (10.33%), Crude Oil production (8.98 %), Natural production Gas (6.88%), Cement production (5.37%), Fertilizers production (2.63%).

### Climate Change Performance Index

- India dropped 13 places to 23rd in the Climate Change Performance Index 2025, mainly due to lack of progress in phasing out coal.
- Coal remains central to India’s energy system:
  - Provides over 50% of total energy use.
  - Accounts for 75% of electricity generation (2024).

#### About Climate Change Performance Index

- It is published by think tanks German watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.
- It tracks the progress of the world’s largest emitters in terms of emissions, renewables, and climate policy.
- The performance of countries is assessed in four categories – GHG emission, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy.
- It was first published in 2005.

### India’s Renewable Energy Progress

- India doubled clean energy capacity (2021–25).
- Renewables now make up:
  - 50% of installed power capacity
  - But only 20% of actual electricity generation in 2024.

### Transforming India into a leading Quantum-Powered Economy

- NITI Aayog’s Frontier Tech Hub has released a

comprehensive roadmap titled “**Transforming India into a Leading Quantum-Powered Economy.**”

- It is a national strategic roadmap prepared by NITI Aayog (with IBM as knowledge partner) that lays out **India’s 2035 vision** for quantum computing, communication, sensing and materials, and details actions needed to build a globally competitive quantum ecosystem.
- It aims to incubate **at least 10 globally competitive quantum start-ups**, each surpassing **USD 100 million** in revenue and capturing over **50%** of the value in the **global quantum software and services market by 2035**.
- India ranks 2nd globally in the number of graduates in quantum-relevant fields (approximately 91,000), behind only the EU.
- Different states are actively building their own ecosystems. For example, **Karnataka** has established the **Quantum Research Park (QuRP)**, and **Andhra Pradesh** recently launched the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)**.

### **Global Environment Outlook 2025**

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the **7th edition of Global Environment Outlook 2025 (GEO-7)** during the 7th session of the UNEP in Nairobi.

#### **Key Highlights of the report**

- **Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increased by 1.5%** annually since 1990,

reaching record highs (1.55°C) in 2024 and intensifying climate impacts.

- **One million species** out of an estimated eight million are threatened with extinction. 20–40% of the global land area is degraded, affecting over 3 billion people.

### **About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

- The UNEP, founded on 5th June, 1972, is the foremost global environmental authority.
- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Notable Publications of UNEP:** Emission Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook.

### **Internationalisation of Higher Education in India – NITI Aayog’s Roadmap**

- NITI Aayog released a report titled “**Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations**”.

- **Objective:** To globalise India’s higher education system in line with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Position India as a global hub for education and research.

#### **Policy Recommendations:**

- **22 interventions** covering strategy, regulation, branding, outreach, curriculum, and campus culture.
- Establish **Europe’s Erasmus+** like student exchange programme.

**Major Proposals:**

- **Bharat Vidya Kosh:** As a national research sovereign wealth fund (suggesting a \$10 billion corpus, of which 50% can be raised from diaspora/philanthropy + 50% from Centre).
- **Vishwa Bandhu scholarship:** To attract foreign students.
- **Vishwa Bandhu fellowship:** To attract foreign research talent and faculty.
- **Bharat ki AAN (Alumni Ambassador Network):** To leverage diaspora Indians who have studied at top India universities into acting as ambassadors for Indian higher education.

**Future Outlook:**

- India may host 7.89 lakh to 11 lakh international students by 2047.
- As of 2022, India hosted around 47,000 international students.

**Rising Mouth Cancer Burden in India****Linked to Alcohol, Tobacco Use**

- **Context:** About 62% of mouth cancer cases in India are caused by alcohol consumption and tobacco use, including smokeless forms like gutkha, khaini, and paan.
- Research Conducted by
  - Centre for Cancer Epidemiology and Homi Bhabha National Institute
- **6 out of 10 people** suffering from mouth cancer are affected due to frequent intake of alcohol and tobacco products.

**States at Risk**

- **High alcohol prevalence:** Arunachal Pradesh (26%)
- **Low alcohol prevalence:** Gujarat (4%)

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- **Book Title:** A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey.
  - **Authors:** Arvind Subramanian (former Chief Economic Advisor of India) and Devesh Kapur.
- **Book:** My Life as a Comrade: The Story of an Extraordinary Politician and the World that Shaped Her.
  - **Author:** K.K. Shailaja (former Kerala Health Minister)
- **Dhandakaaranyathil Seethai,** a collection of Tamil short stories by Imayam
- **'The Dig: Keeladi and the Politics of India's Past,'** by journalist Sowmiya Ashok.
- **Oru Thooku Kaithiyin Vaakumoolam (Testimony of a Death Convict)** by Selvam
- **Anti-Hindi Agitation- Complete Government Documents** by A Vennila
- **Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal: The Vice President of India Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal.**
  - The book authorised by **Shri Vasudev Devnani**
- **The Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, released the book "Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era",** Authored by **Sikander Kumar.**

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### National Handicrafts Awards 2023 & 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred Shilp Guru Awards (highest honour) and National Awards for 2023 and 2024 in New Delhi

#### Award Recipients

- Shilp Guru Awards 2023:
  - Ajit Kumar Das (West Bengal) - hand-painted textiles
  - D Sivamma (Andhra Pradesh) - leather puppet
- National Awards 2023:
  - Hirabai Jhareka Baghel (Chhattisgarh) - metal craft
  - Imtiyaz Ahamad (Uttar Pradesh) - handmade carpet
  - Roshan Chhipa (Rajasthan) - artistic textiles
- Shilp Guru Awards 2024:
  - Subhash Arora (Haryana) - metal craft
  - Mohammad Dilshad (Uttar Pradesh) - wood carving
- National Awards 2024:
  - T Baskaran (Tamil Nadu) - stone carving
- Rupban Chitrakar (West Bengal) - painting
- Baldev Baghmare (Madhya Pradesh) - tribal artisans category
- Total Awards
  - 12 artisans received Shilp Guru Awards (2023 & 2024 combined)
  - 36 craftsmen received National Awards (both years)

### PM honoured with Ethiopia's highest award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award 'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia' by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali.
- The award was to honour Mr. Modi's role in strengthening India-Ethiopia ties -the Ministry of External Affairs.

### National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) - PRSI National Awards 2025

- The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) received two awards at the PRSI National Awards 2025.
  - 'Har Ghar Museum' - Best Initiative on Social Media.
  - 'Waste to Art' - Special/Commendable Publication.

#### National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)

- It is an **autonomous organization** functioning under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
  - It was established on **April 4, 1978**.

#### National Science Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Science Awards 2025 in New Delhi on December 23.
  - These awards were launched in 2023.
- Vigyan Ratna - 2025
  - Awarded to the late astrophysicist **Jayant Narlikar** (Maharashtra).
- First Vigyan Ratna Award (2024)
  - Govindarajan Padmanabhan from Tamil Nadu** (Biochemistry & Biotechnology)

- **Vigyan Shri Award** - Presented to 8 individuals
    - **Gyanendra Pratap** - Agricultural Science
    - **Yusuf Mohammed Sheikh** - Nuclear Energy
    - **K. Thangaraj** - Biological Sciences
    - **Pradeep Thalappil** - Chemistry (IIT Madras)
    - **S. Venkata Mohan** - Environmental Science
    - **Mahan Maharaj** - Mathematics & Computer Science
  - **Vigyan Yuva Award** - presented to 14 young scientists
    - **Jagadish Gupta** - Agricultural Science
    - **Satyendra Kumar** - Agricultural Science
    - **Valiur Rahman** - Earth Sciences
    - **Sabyasachi Mukherjee** - Mathematics & Computer Science
    - **Suresh Kumar** - Medicine
    - **Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam** - Technology & Innovation
  - **Vigyan Team Award**
  - The Vigyan Team Award was announced for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Aroma Mission team for promoting lavender cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**
- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 20 children for their outstanding achievements.
  - **Veer Bal Diwas** is observed annually to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of **Sahibzada Zorawar Singh** and **Sahibzada Fateh Singh**, the sons of **Guru Gobind Singh**, the 10th Sikh Guru.
  - Awards were given for excellence in bravery, social service, environment, sports, arts and culture, and science and technology.
  - **Vyoma Priya** from Saravanampatti, **Coimbatore** district, received the **Veer Bal Puraskar**.
  - Notable awardees include:
    - **Pragnika Vaka Lakshmi (7)** - Chess
    - **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** - Cricket
    - **Ajay Raj** and **Musu Madhu Sidhan** - Bravery
    - **Shravan Singh (10)** - who assisted the soldiers fighting for the country at the border near his home during Operation
    - **Dhinidhi Desinghu** - Swimming
- Kannada writer Bhanu Mushtaq**
- Received the International Booker Prize for 2025.
  - This prize was awarded for the short story collection 'Heart Lamp'.
  - The book 'Heart Lamp' was translated into English by Deepa Basthi.

## DEFENCE

### Exercise EKUVERIN

- The **14th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN** between the **Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)** began on **2 December 2025** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, and will continue until 15 December 2025.
- EKUVERIN means “**Friends**” in Dhivehi, reflecting the strong friendship and military ties between India and the Maldives.
- The exercise is part of **India’s Neighbourhood First Policy** and demonstrates **commitment to regional stability**.

### World's top 100 defence equipment producers

- This report has been published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- Three Indian public sector companies have secured positions in the list.
- They are:
  - Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)
  - Bharat Electronics (BEL)
  - Mazagon Dock (MDL)

### Exercise Harimau Shakti

- **India and Malaysia** have begun the 5th edition of Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti is a **bilateral military training** exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army to strengthen coordination in **counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations**.

### HAMMER

- India has signed a pact with France’s Safran to manufacture and maintain **HAMMER (AASM) air-to-ground weapons** in India through a 50:50 Safran-BEL joint venture.
- **HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range)**, also known as AASM, is a stand-off, precision-guided air-to-ground weapon that converts conventional bombs into **high-accuracy strike systems through modular guidance and propulsion kits**.

### Desert Cyclone II Exercise

- India and the United Arab Emirates have launched the second edition of their joint military exercise, **Desert Cyclone II**.
- The focus is on urban warfare and UN-mandated sub-conventional operations

### Anjadip Joins Indian Navy

- *Anjadip*, the **third of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, was delivered to the Indian Navy in **Chennai**.
- Designed and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata.
- The ASW SWC project was being executed under a public-private partnership between the GRSE and the L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
- Anjadip is named after Anjadip Island off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka and is a reincarnation of the erstwhile INS Anjadip, a Petya-class corvette that was decommissioned in 2003.

### Samudra Pratap

- The Indian Coast Guard has commissioned its first dedicated pollution control vessel, ‘**Samudra Pratap**’.

### About Samudra Pratap

- Samudra Pratap is the first pollution control vessel inducted by the Indian Coast Guard.

- This ship was built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- It incorporates more than 60% indigenous components.
- It supports pollution control, search and rescue operations, and maritime law enforcement
- It is equipped only with **K-15 missiles**, which have a **range of 750 km**.

### RPREX 2025

- Regional Pollution Response Exercise Conducts by Indian Coast Guard in **Mumbai**.
- To test preparedness for oil spill response and marine pollution control under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan.

### Akash-NG Missile System

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has recently successfully completed the user evaluation trials of the next-generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system.
- **Akash Next Generation (Akash-NG)** is an advanced **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** defence system.
- It is developed by DRDO and manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**.
- It is designed to protect critical and vulnerable areas from aerial threats.

### Pinaka long-range guided rocket

- **Background:** DRDO successfully conducted the first test flight of the Pinaka extended-range guided rocket.

#### **Information about the Pinaka long-range guided rocket:**

### K-4 missile test

- **Background:** India tested the K-4 intermediate-range ballistic missile from the INS Arihaat submarine.
- **Significance:** Bringing India's sea-based nuclear deterrence capability into operation.
- **K-4 Missile Features:**
  - This is a solid-fueled K-4 ballistic missile.
  - It is capable of striking targets up to 3,500 km away.
  - It can carry a nuclear warhead payload of up to 2 tons.
- It is a battle-proven, all-weather, indirect-fire artillery weapon system.
- It was developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) of DRDO.
- It was first used during the Kargil War, where it successfully neutralized Pakistani army positions on mountain peaks.

### INSV Kaundinya Sets Sail for Oman

### INS Arihant

- **Submarine:** INS Arihaat, India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).
- **Weight: 6,000 tons**
- **Predecessor:** INS Arihant (fully commissioned in 2018).
- Context: **INSV Kaundinya**, the Indian Navy's indigenously built **stitched sailing vessel**, began its **maiden overseas voyage** from **Porbandar, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman**.
- The expedition aims to **revive and celebrate India's ancient maritime heritage**.
- INSV Kaundinya has been constructed using traditional stitched shipbuilding techniques, employing natural materials and methods that date back centuries.
- The expedition is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations between India and Oman by reinforcing shared maritime heritage and deepening cultural ties.

## SPORTS & GAMES

### World Youth Table Tennis Championship 2025

- The World Youth Table Tennis Championship was held in Romania.
- India's Divyanshi Bhowmik won a bronze medal.
- Divyanshi also won a **silver medal** in the **U-19 men's team event**.
- The Indian U-19 team of **Ankur Bhattacharjee, Abhinand Prativathi, and Priyanuj Bhattacharya** finished **runner-up**, losing to **Japan** in the final.

### National Sub-Junior Kabaddi Championship

- The **35th National Sub-Junior Kabaddi Championship** was held in Haryana.
- **Haryana** won the gold medal, while **Tamil Nadu** secured the silver medal.

### Khelo India University Games

- **Gokul Pandian**, a student of SRM IST, won the gold medal in the 200-meter race at the Khelo India University Games held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

### 7th Carrom World Cup

- The **7th Carrom World Cup** was held in **Malé, Maldives**.
- **Women's Team Title:**
  - The Indian women's team won the championship.
  - **Team members:** Keerthana (TN), Mitra (TN), Kasima (TN), and Kajal Kumari (Maharashtra).

### Men's Swiss League Winner:

- **Abdul Asipattam** (Tamil Nadu) won the title.

### Men's Doubles:

- **Gold:** K. Seeni Vas – Abhijit (India)
- **Silver:** Prashanth – Sandeep (India)

### ISSF World Cup

- Held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- **Simranpreet Kaur Brar** won gold in the **25m Pistol Women's Final**.
- **Anish** won silver in the **25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Final**.
- **Aishwari Pratap Singh Tomar** won silver in the **50m Rifle 3 Positions Men's Final**.
- **India** has now won **6 medals**: 2 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze.

### OCEANMAN World Final Championship 2025

- The **OCEANMAN World Final Championship**, a major open-water swimming event, was held in **Dubai from December 5-7, 2025**.
- In this, **A. L. Nikhil (from Chennai)**, a 15-year-old boy from the Autism Spectrum Disorder category, who participated in the **Inspiration category for differently-abled people** in the open category, swam a distance of 5 km in 1 hour 40.51 seconds and won the **bronze medal** by finishing 3rd.

### Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup

- Held in **Chennai and Madurai**.
- Organized by the International Hockey Federation, Hockey India, and Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority.
- India secured the **bronze medal** at the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup.

- This is India's **first bronze medal** in the tournament and the first medal since winning gold in 2016.
- Germany won the gold medal.

### National Womens Chess

- **P. Nandhidhaa of Tamil Nadu** won the National Women's Chess Championship held in **Durgapur**.

### WSF Squash World Cup 2025

- India won the WSF Squash World Cup 2025 for the first time.
- Gold-winning Indian players: **Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh, and Anahat Singh**.
- The final match was held in **Chennai**.
- India had previously won only a **bronze medal** in 2023.

### 68<sup>th</sup> National Shooting Championship 2025

- **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** delivered a landmark performance at the 68<sup>th</sup> Shooting Nationals.
- **World record 470.5 to clinch gold** in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final.

### WTA Tour Player of the Year award

- **Aryna Sabalenka** won her second consecutive WTA Tour Player of the Year award.
- Sabalenka joined **Serena Williams** and **Iga Swiatek** as back-to-back winners of the honour over the past 25 years.

### ICC Men's T20I Bowlers' Rankings

- **Varun Chakaravathy (India)** has **extended his lead** at the top of the **ICC Men's T20I bowlers' rankings**.
- Achieved a **career-best rating of 818**.

### National Shooting Championship

- **Double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker** secured the gold medal in the senior women's 25m sports pistol event.
- In the junior women's 25m sports pistol event, **Simranpreet Kaur Brar** continued her impressive form by winning the gold medal.

### Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- **Jharkand** become the champion of **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (Cricket)**

### National Shooting Championship – Women's 10m Air Pistol

- **Ketan Malik (Haryana)** won the **women's 10m air pistol national title**.

### Women's T20 Cricket

- Indian star batter **Smriti Mandhana** became the **first Indian woman** to cross **4,000 runs**

### 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Para Games

- **Asian Youth Para Games** held in **Dubai (7-14)**
- **Baby Sahana Ravi** won the **gold medal** in the **Under-23 Women's Singles Class 9** category in **Table Tennis**.
- **Nithish Won Bronze** in **Under-23 Men's Singles Class 9** category in **Table Tennis**.

### 68<sup>th</sup> National Shooting Championship

- The **68<sup>th</sup> National Shooting Championship** is being held in **Bhopal**.
- **Men's 10m Air Rifle (Senior):**
  - **Gold:** **Kiran Ankush Jadhav**
  - **Silver:** **Arjun Babuta**
  - **Bronze:** **Jaswinder Pratap Singh Tomar**
- **Men's Junior 10m Air Rifle:**
  - **Gold:** **Mohammed Murtaza Vania (Gujarat)**

- **Silver:** Abhinav Shaw (West Bengal)
- **Bronze:** Omkar Vikas Waghmare
- The Men's Doubles title was won by "A. Hariharan" and "Ruban Kumar".

### **Khelo India Tribal Games**

- The emblem and mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games were unveiled at the B.R. Yadav Sports Stadium in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
- This historic national sporting event is scheduled to be held from February 14, 2026.

### **National Shooting Championship**

- **Suraj Sharma from Madhya Pradesh** won gold medals in both senior and junior categories.

### **National Shooting Championship**

- **Tilottama Sen** won the women's 50m rifle 3-positions gold at the National shooting championships.

### **World Rapid Chess Championship**

- **Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina** emerged as the winners at the World rapid chess championship.
- For India, **Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy** won the bronze medals, in the Open and women's sections, respectively.
- World Rapid Chess Championship held at **Qatar**.

### **Senior National Badminton Championships**

- **Surya Charishma Tamiri** claimed the Women's Singles crown at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships in **Vijayawada**.
- In the Men's Singles final, "**Rithvik Sanjeevi S**" emerged champion.

### **Badminton World Federation Athletes**

- Two-time Olympic medallist "**P.V. Sindhu**" has been elected Chair of the Badminton World Federation Athletes'.
- BWF is the world governing body for badminton.
- PV Sindhu won Olympic silver in 2016 and bronze in 2020.

### **World Blitz Championship**

- **Magnus Carlsen** won the World Blitz Championship.
- **Arjun Erigaisi's** Won **bronze medal** in the World Blitz and also secured **bronze in the Rapid Championship**.

- **World Rapid Blitz Championship** at joint tournament was held in **Doha, Qatar**.

### **Carrom World Cup 2025**

- In the 7<sup>th</sup> Carrom World Cup held in the Maldives, **Keerthana from Washermanpet, Chennai**, won gold medals in all three categories: singles, doubles, and team events.

### **Asian Youth Kabaddi Championship 2025**

- The Indian women's kabaddi team **won the gold medal** at the 3rd Asian Youth Games held in Bahrain. **Karthika from Kannagi Nagar, Chennai**, was a member of this team.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention

- India hosted the international conference “50 Years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for the Global South” in New Delhi to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention’s entry into force.

#### About Biological Weapons Convention

- The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is the **world’s first multilateral disarmament treaty** banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- It prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer and use of biological and toxin weapons.
- Genesis:** Negotiated in Geneva, Switzerland within the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC) and Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) from 1969 until 1971.
- Opened for signature in **1972** and entered into force in **1975**.
- Membership:** Almost universal membership with 188 States Parties (**India signed and ratified in 1974**) and 4 Signatory States (Egypt, Haiti, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic).
- 5 States-** Israel, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea and Kiribati have neither signed **nor acceded to the Convention**.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> India-Russia Annual Summit

- 16 MoUs** signed covering energy, trade, media, academics, and labour mobility.
- Energy cooperation described as a “**strong and vital pillar**” of the partnership.

#### Labour Mobility:

- Focus on **enhancing mobility of Indian semi-skilled and skilled workers** to Russia (approx. 5,00,000 demand).
- Agreements on **combating irregular migration** and formal frameworks for safe employment in Russia.

#### Defence

- Both sides agreed to work together to **train Indian sailors to navigate ships in the Arctic**.
- Russia agrees to manufacture components of Russian weapons and defence equipment for Indian military use in India.
- Purchase of additional S-400 missiles.
- Agreement on manufacturing 54 fifth-generation fighter aircraft Sukhoi SU in India.

#### Energy & Nuclear:

- Nuclear collaboration includes **fuel cycle support, Kudankulam plant operations, construction of remaining units**, and VVER reactors’ research & development.
- 2,000 MW** of electricity is being **generated in 2 nuclear reactors** at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.
- In addition to these, **4 more nuclear reactors** are being built with Russian assistance.
- An agreement has been signed in 2024** to supply nuclear fuel to the 3rd and 4th nuclear reactors of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.
- Russia is committed to ensuring **uninterrupted supply of crude oil and coal** to India.

#### Economic Cooperation

- India and Russia agreed to **enhance bilateral trade settlements in national currencies** to reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar.
- Focus on **interoperability of payment systems, digital currencies, and financial messaging systems**.

- Both countries finalized an economic cooperation program **until 2030 (5-year economic plan)**, aiming to boost annual trade to \$100 billion.
- Current **bilateral trade** stands at \$68.7 billion.

### Logistics Cooperation

- Chennai-Vladivostok Sea Route Project:** This project is to be implemented as part of the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)**.
- International North-South Transport Corridor:** Strengthening cooperation on this 7200 km long route (India, Russia, Iran, Central Asia, Europe).
- Expanded Arctic cooperation including the Northern Sea route.

### 30-Day e-Tourist Visa

- A scheme to provide **free 30-day electronic tourist entry permit** (e-Tourist Visa) to **Russian citizens** visiting for tourism will be introduced soon.

### India-Russia Bilateral Relations Evolution

- 1971:** USSR supported India during the **Bangladesh Liberation War**, using its UNSC veto three times in India's favour.
- 2000:** Strategic Partnership formalised, **leading to annual summits**.
- 2010:** Upgraded to **Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership**, signalling deeper trust.
- 2019 onwards:** Renewed engagement through initiatives like the Eastern Economic Forum and India's "**Act Far East Policy**."
- Post-2022:** Russia became **India's largest crude oil supplier** via discounted oil arrangements amid sanctions.

### India-Jordan Joint Statement 2025

- Context: The Prime Minister of India's visit

to Jordan marked 75 years of diplomatic ties, resulting in a joint roadmap for deeper bilateral cooperation.

- Five agreements signed between India and Jordan:

- Renewable energy
- Water resource management and development
- Cultural and tourism cooperation between the cities of Petra (Jordan) and Ellora (India)
- Sharing of digital solutions
- Cultural exchange cooperation.

### India-Oman Free Trade Agreement

- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in Muscat, the capital of Oman, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq.

- As per the agreement, Oman grants complete tax exemption to 98% of goods exported from India.

- At the same time, India provides tax concessions to **77.79%** of goods imported from Oman.

- This agreement is expected to come into effect in the first quarter of next year.

### India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

- The agreement provides an opportunity to **double bilateral trade** between India and New Zealand within the next 5 years.

- It aims to attract **Rs.1.80 lakh crore investment** from New Zealand into India over the next 15 years.

- The two countries agreed to enhance **bilateral cooperation in education, sports, and people-to-people exchanges**.

## EMINENT PERSONALITIES

### Madan Mohan Malaviya's Birthday

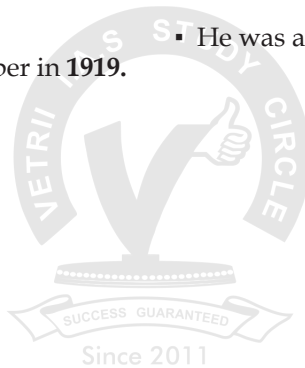
- **Born:** December 25, 1861, Allahabad
- **Identity:** Freedom fighter, educationist, social reformer, politician, lawyer, scholar.
- **Contribution:** Founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- **Died:** 1946.
- **Award:** Bharat Ratna in 2015.
- President of the Indian National Congress: Malaviya was elected president four times, in 1909, 1918, 1932, and 1933.
- He founded '**The Leader**' newspaper in **1919**.

### Queen Velu Nachiyar Memorial Day:

- Velu Nachiyar's lifespan: January 3, 1730 - December 25, 1796
- The year Velu Nachiyar recaptured Sivaganga: 1780.
- The first Indian female ruler to take up arms and fight against the British.

### Remembering the great scholar Rajaji

- December 10, 1878 - December 25, 1972
- **Profession:** Lawyer, Writer, Politician
- He was called the '**Mango of Salem**' and '**Political Chanakya**'.
- The newspaper he ran was **Young India**.
- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1954**.



**CURRENT FACTS**

- **Nilgiri tahr:** Endemic to Western Ghats above 4,000 ft. It is considered an endangered species and is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- **Fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam:** starting **December 2 at Namoo Ghat, Kashi**. Theme: “**Learn Tamil - Tamil Karkalam**”.
- GST compensation cess was **launched in 2017** to compensate States for GST-related revenue losses for five years.
- **NAP-AMR 2.0 (2025–29)** has been released to tackle **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** across human health, veterinary practices, agriculture, aquaculture, waste systems, and the food chain—reflecting a **One Health approach**.
- Cuba is called the **Sugar Bowl of the World**. It is called this because it produces a lot of sugarcane and exports sugar.
- There are 17 thousand years old stone age hand **axe factories in the Pallavaram hills**. This was discovered by an English archaeologist named Robert Bruce Foote in 1863.
- India is the first in the world in the production of small grains. India’s contribution alone among Asian countries is 80%. The states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra hold important positions.
- China is the first in the production of groundnuts, followed by India and Nigeria. Gujarat is the first in India with a contribution of 37%.
- **Rajpath:** Has been renamed as Kartavya Path (Path of Duty).
- **Article 243E of the Indian Constitution:** The duration and election schedule for Panchayats.
- **Article 243U of the Indian Constitution:** The duration and election schedule for Municipalities.
- India’s **doctor-population ratio is 1:811**, assuming 80% of registered practitioners are active.
- **Article 25 of the Indian Constitution:** Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- **Article 26 of the Indian Constitution:** Freedom to manage religious affairs.
- **Prime Minister’s Official Residence location:** Has been renamed as Lok Kalyan Marg (signifying people’s welfare).
- **Central Government’s Chief Secretariat:** Has been renamed as Kartavya Bhavan (Duty Building).
- **Prime Minister’s Office:** Has been renamed as Seva Teerth (Place of Service).
- **53<sup>rd</sup> Chief Justice of India:** Justice Surya Kant.
- The **Thiruppugazh Committee**, formed after the 2021 floods, submitted a **600-page basin-wise flood management report**.
- **Chief Election Commissioner:** Gyanesh Kumar.
- The Defence Research and Development Centre successfully conducted a fighter pilot seat ejection test on 02.12.2025 using an indigenously made fighter aircraft, in a trial jointly carried out by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- MSME Minister inaugurated a ₹2.34-crore hostel at EDII, Ekkattuthangal, Chennai, for trainees of entrepreneurship certificate courses.
- **Sankarapathi Fort:** Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and later used in the early 1700s by King Chellamuthu Vijayaragunatha Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram.
- **Vietnamese EV maker VinFast** signed an **MoU with the Tamil Nadu Government** for land allocation and expansion at **SIPCOT Industrial Park, Thoothukudi.**
- **July 18** is observed as **Nelson Mandela International Day** (declared by UN in 2009) to honor his contributions to peace, freedom, and social justice.
- A scheme to **provide napkins to women police officers** in Tamil Nadu **through automatic machines** was launched on **04.12.25**. This scheme is being implemented by the **Chennai Metropolitan Police Department.**
- **Nitish Kumar** has been officially recognised by the **World Book of Records, London.** He is the first Indian to become **Chief Minister 10 times.**
- **Tamil Nadu welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:** Tholkudi Scheme, Nannilam Scheme, and Annal Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship Scheme.
- **Current Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC):** Kishore Makwana.
- **Digital constitutionalism** refers to the application and extension of core constitutional principles – liberty, dignity, equality, privacy, due process, proportionality, and rule of law – to digital spaces, technologies, and governance systems.
- India is hosting the **20<sup>th</sup> Session of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee** for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage from 8 to 13 December 2025 in **New Delhi.**
- The **Himalayas** are spread across countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, and Pakistan in Asia. The **world’s highest peaks** are Everest (8,848 m), K2 (8,611 m), and Kanchenjunga (8,586 m).
- The poetic lines **“Irunthamiye unnal irunthen imaiyor virundamizdham endraalum venden”** is included in the book **‘Tamilvidhu’.** **U.V.Saminadayayer published this book in the 1930s.**
- The one who sang **‘Ullondru vaiththu puramondru pesavaar uravu kalavamai vendum’** was **Ramalinga Adigal.** He was praised as Vallalar. The collection of his songs is called **‘Thiruvarutpa’.**
- **Section 2(d) of the Human Rights Protection Act, 1993** defines the term **‘human rights’.**
- India, including other countries, has signed the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights,** which was adopted on 10 December 1945.
- **The Human Rights Protection Act** was enacted in India in 1993. The **State Human Rights Commission** was set up in **Tamil Nadu in 1997.**
- The Tamil Nadu government enacted the **Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act, 2007** to remove encroachments on water bodies throughout Tamil Nadu.
- The **world’s largest freshwater lake by area is Lake Superior.** It is located on the US-Canada border. However, in terms of **water volume,** it is Lake Baikal in Russia.
- **Article 226 of the Indian Constitution:** Writ jurisdiction of High Courts.
- **Article 131 of the Indian Constitution:** Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

- **Article 26(b) of the Indian Constitution:** Grants every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion.
- **China ranks first in seafood production** worldwide, followed by countries like **India and Indonesia**, and India is the leading exporter of seafood products.
- **Bangladesh ranks first in jute production** with a global share of 58 percent. **India** is at the **second place**. **West Bengal** is at the top in India.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the improved fisheries sector facilities, fish landing platform and new fish seed farm in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 98.92 crore on 08.12.25.
- **India is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the world in renewable energy production** and wind power capacity. The **southern states** account for 50 percent of the country's 54,000 MW wind power capacity.
- **SDG 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- **SSTAT Squash World Cup** begins in **Chennai** from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Indian team won the **bronze medal** in the World Cup series held in Chennai in **2023**.
- The **Central Institute of Classical Tamil** was established by the Central Government in 2008 in Perumbakkam, Chennai for the development of the classical Tamil language. It operates under the **Union Ministry of Education**. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is its chairman.
- Tamil Nadu ranks **5<sup>th</sup> in total marine fish production of the country**.
- Lockheed Martin plans a **joint production centre in India** to manufacture **C-130J Super Hercules heavy military transport aircraft**.
- **Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:** Added by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment in 1985. It is the Anti-Defection Law.
- **Article 200 of the Constitution of India:** Governor's powers regarding the state bills, allowing them to assent, withhold assent, return for reconsideration, or reserve the bill for the President's consideration.
- **Article 326 of the Constitution of India:** Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
- The **first Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** for electoral rolls in India was held in **1952**.
- New Zealand became the first country to grant women full voting rights in 1893 and women voted in the elections held that same year.
- The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai plans to achieve the goal of publishing the Thirukkural in 100 languages by August 2026 to spread Tamil heritage worldwide.
- The Director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Studies is R. Chandrasekaran.
- Smartphone exports from India to the United States tripled in October 2025. Exports amounted to \$1.47 billion, roughly three times higher than October 2024.
- Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Tamil Nadu: Archana Patnaik.
- **Article 21A (86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, 2002)** guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 expands coverage to ages 3–18 years, aiming for universal schooling up to Class 12 by 2030.
- The Mekedatu Dam is proposed to be built by Karnataka across the Cauvery River.

- Census 2027 will be fully digital and the first to enumerate caste in independent India.
- **Article 174 of the Indian Constitution:** Sessions of the State Legislature, prorogation and dissolution.
- **India** is the **second-largest buyer of crude oil** from Russia, after China.
- **Article 19 (a) of the Indian Constitution:** Right to freedom of speech and expression.
- **Rajam Krishnan** was the **first woman writer** from **Tamil Nadu** to receive the **Sahitya Akademi Award**. She received this award in 1973 for her novel '**Verukku Neer**'
- The **Aathi or Aar** tree was the symbolic tree of the **Chola dynasty**.
- The **Palm** tree was the symbolic tree of the **Chera dynasty**.
- The **Neem** tree was the symbolic tree of the **Pandya dynasty**.
- '**Ponthai Vembe Aarena Varooum Maaperun Thaanaiyar Malaindha Poovum**' - **Tolkappiyam**
- "**Vembum arum ponthaiyum monrum malaintha chenniyar anintha villar kotra venthar varinum**" - **Purananuru**
- **Kaushal Kishor v. State of U.P. case (2023)** - A Constitution Bench ruled that no additional restrictions beyond Article 19(2) are permissible.
- **Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution:** Allows the government to impose reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a)).
- Tamil Nadu launched a **Community-based environmental MRV (CbMRV)** initiative to integrate people-led environmental intelligence into climate governance.
- **Methane** is a **highly potent greenhouse gas**, about **84 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub>** over **20 years**, and a major contributor to landfill fires and climate change.
- **Railway Electricity Saving Week** is observed every year from **December 8 to 14**.
- **Magalir Urimai Thogai: Launched on September 15, 2023. Eligible women receive ₹1,000 per month.**
- On December 5, a **private member's bill, 'Right to Disconnect - 2025'**, was introduced in the Lok Sabha to protect employees from work messages after office hours. The Right to Disconnect law was first enacted in France in 2017.
- **Current Chief Information Commissioner (CIC):** Raj Kumar Goyal.
- Tamil Nadu aims to eradicate leprosy by 2025.
- The Central Government has set the target of "**Insurance for All**" by 2047.
- India **ranks tenth** globally in the life insurance business.
- A global ban was imposed on the antibiotic drug called Nitrofurans, which was used in the **medical treatment of livestock and poultry**, after it was confirmed to **contain cancer-causing agents**.
- **Navodaya Vidyalayas**, launched in the mid-1980s, are **fully residential, co-educational rural schools** (classes VI-XII) run by **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti**, affiliated to **CBSE**.
- **Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** at current prices ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024-25, registering a **growth of 16%** and secured the **top position among Indian states**
- **Tamil Nadu ranks third among the states in per capita income (₹3.62 lakh).**

- **Tamil Nadu** government's target of achieving a \$1 trillion economy **by 2030**.
- **Pulicat lake** is India's **second largest brackish water** lagoon straddling the border of two southern states Andhra and Tamil Nadu.
- **Chilika lake** Asia's largest coastal lagoon **at Odisha** every winter welcomes thousands of flamingos to the lake.
- **Rann of Kutch** known for white salt desert **at Gujarat**.
- **Sambhar salt lake** India's largest inland saltwater lake **at Rajasthan**.
- **Arun-3** is a 900 MW hydroelectric project located **in Nepal's Sankhuwasabha** District.
- **Tamil Nadu ranks first** in NITI Aayog's climate action and climate energy targets.
- India has set a target to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- The chairperson of **the Tamil Nadu Governing council on Climate Change** is Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- The Central Government has formed a committee to study integrated pension schemes. Its chairman is **Gagandeep Singh Bedi**.
- **Kavach**: An automatic collision avoidance safety system developed by Indian Railways.
- Tamil Nadu accounted **for 28%** of the country's textile exports and **40%** of the country's leather and footwear exports
- **Tiruppur - the knitwear capital of India**.
- **India** will host the **2030 Commonwealth Games**
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (**under Article 338A**)
  - A constitutional body dedicated to protecting and promoting the interests of the Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- **Article 21** - Protection of life and Personal liberty.
- **Article 41** - Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases (unemployment, old age, sickness and disability).
- **Directive Principles of State Policy**
  - **Dr.B.R.Ambedkar** described DPSP as a **Novel feature** of Indian Constitution.
  - Aim at ensuring socio economic justice.
  - These Directive Principles were not justiciable.
  - They were to be considered as **"instruments of instruction"** for lawmakers and as **"essential for economic democracy"**.
- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**
  - Announced by the Prime Minister **on August 15, 2025**
  - Mission Sudarshan Chakra is India's ambitious next-generation defence initiative.
  - Aimed at creating an advanced, multi-layered shield around critical installations across India.
- **Article 224a** - Appointment of retired Judges at sittings of High Courts
- The **Pichavaram mangrove** forest near Chidambaram in **Cuddalore** district is located between the Vellar and Kollidam estuaries. This estuarine complex is called **Killai backwaters**.

- The world's tallest Statue 'Statue of Unity' (Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel) was designed by Ram V. Sutar.
- The country of Oman honored Prime Minister Modi by bestowing upon him its highest civilian award Order of Oman
- T.N. Chief Electoral Officer **Archana Patnaik**.
- **Right to privacy** is a fundamental right under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
- National Tribal Research Institute **in New Delhi**.
- India **aims to achieve a 20% ethanol blend** in petrol by 2025 through the **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)**.
- India is currently **operating 25 nuclear power plants** with a total capacity of **8,880 MW**.
- The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is legally supported by **Article 324** of the Constitution and Section 21 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**.
- **Aravalli Range**
  - It is one of the **oldest fold mountain ranges** in the world.
  - Location - It extends **for about 650 km** from Delhi through Haryana and Rajasthan to Gujarat.
  - **Highest peak - Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) in Mount Abu**.
- **Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport-Assam**
  - **India's first nature-themed airport terminal**, the airport's design draws inspiration from Assam's biodiversity and cultural heritage under the theme "**Bamboo Orchids**"
- Indus Water Treaty
  - **Pakistan** was allocated the waters of three western flowing rivers - **Jhelum, Chenab, Indus**
  - **India** gained absolute control over the waters of eastern flowing rivers - **Satluj, Beas, Ravi**
- **Suba Veerapandian**, president of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee.
- India is **the second largest** producer and consumer of cotton.
- The spice known as the **Red Gold is saffron**.
- The river known as the **Old Man River is the Mississippi River**.
- The main candidate for a nuclear clock is **thorium-229 (<sup>229</sup>Th)**.
- **SDG Goal 5** - to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **The Prevention of Child Marriage Act was passed in 2006**
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme
- Aims to address the declining child sex ratio through empowerment measures, especially promotion of education.
- The highest child marriage rates among **women aged 18 to 29 years**
  - **West Bengal (42%), Bihar (40%), and Tripura (39%)**, according to NHFS data.

- The percentage of women marrying before the legal minimum age of 18 years
  - Lowest in **Lakshadweep (4%), Jammu & Kashmir (6%), Ladakh (6%), Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Nagaland (7% each).**
- Nuclear Plant Accidents
  - Three Mile Island disaster in 1979
  - Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986
  - Fukushima core meltdown following the tsunami in 2011
- The first two phases of **the keeladi excavation** site were headed by **Amarnath Ramakrishna.**
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of **1981**
- **The Environment Protection Act, 1986**
- **Factories Act, 1948**
- **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority**
  - National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).**
  - It was **established in 2006** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (WPA 1972).**
- **Project Elephant**
  - The Government of India's Ministry of Environment and Forests launched Project Elephant in February **1992.**
  - It is a **Central Sponsored Scheme,**
  - **Elephas maximus, the Indian elephant.** It is listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Flora and Fauna and Schedule I of the **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.**
- **Asian Elephants**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.
  - **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Elephant status in India**
  - As per the Elephant Census conducted in 2017, **Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049),** followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054), respectively.
- **Hiwali,** a remote tribal hamlet in **Maharashtra's** Tryambakeshwar taluka in Nashik district has been declared a **zero-addiction village** by the Zilla Parishad.
- According to data released by a career guidance firm, **Tamil Nadu** has **secured the first position** in India in filing patents.
- In India, since 2011, the use of **Nitrofurans** has been banned at all stages of poultry farming.
- The distance between the **Sun** and the **Earth** is **150 million km.** The time it takes for **sunlight** to reach the Earth at a speed of 300,000 km per second is **8 minutes and 20 seconds, or 500 seconds.**

- The **Kasiviswanathar Temple** in **Parangimalai** was built by the **Vijayanagara Empire** and the **Nayaka kings**.
- The **Karikrishna Perumal Temple**, located in **Thiruaayarpadi**, **Ponneri**, was built by the **Chola king Karikala**.
- **Nuclear Energy Development for India's Transformation and Sustainable Use (SHANTI) Act** aims to increase nuclear power capacity from **8.78 GW to 100 GW by 2047**.
- India ranks after **USA, Canada, UK, France, Japan, and Germany** in nuclear power generation.
- The **Union Cycliste Internationale 2.2 Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026** cycling race will be held in **Pune** from **January 19 to 23**.
- According to the Union Ministry of Power, **49%** of electricity is generated from **fossil fuels**, while **51%** comes from **non-conventional sources and nuclear energy**, with **nuclear power contributing only 3%**.
- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**
- **Article 51A(g)**- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures
- India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), or Mangalyaan, entered Mars orbit on **September 24, 2014**
- **STARTUPTN**- The state's nodal agency for **startups and innovation**
- **Project Tiger** is a **wildlife conservation initiative** in India that was launched in 1973. **IUCN status- Endangered**
- **Vande Mataram**
  - The song was probably written by **Bankimchandra Chatterjee** between 1872 and 1875
  - It entered the public sphere through his novel **Anandamath**, published in **1881**.
  - The novel first appeared serially in **Bangadarshan**, a monthly journal founded by Bankimchandra.
  - **Aurobindo Ghose** considered Bankim "the rishi of Indian nationalism." Sabyasachi Bhattacharya's book, **Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song**
- **Article 25**- Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- Women contribute a mere **17% of India's GDP**
- '**Operation Sagar Bandhu**'- It involved delivery of multi-dimensional humanitarian aid by the **Indian Air Force and Indian Navy** to support the cyclone affected areas of **Sri Lanka**.
- **Paliyar Tribe**
  - They are an indigenous community living in the hilly regions of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
  - They are also known as Palians, Palaiyar, and Panaiyar.
  - They reside in Dindigul district and in the Sirumalai and Palani hill areas near the Western Ghats
- **Kaziranga National Park in Assam**, home to one of the world's largest populations of greater one-horned rhinos.
- **National Child Labour Project**
  - Central sector scheme

- **Target Group:** Children below **14 years** of age and adolescents below **18 years** of age.
- To eliminate all forms of child labour, raising awareness creation of child labour monitoring, tracking and reporting system.
- Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act, **1982**
- The **Karbi tribe from Assam** celebrates the cultural festival **Rongker**.
- **Article 14-** Equality before law
- Dowry Prohibition Act, **1961**
- **India's first woman Chief Minister** was **Sucheta Kriplani**. She served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967.
- **Pratibha Patil**, from Maharashtra, was **the first woman President of India**. She held this office from 2007 to 2012.
- **Article 120:** Language to be used in Parliament
- Parliamentary proceedings should generally be conducted in Hindi or English.
  - If a member is unable to express their views adequately in Hindi or English, that member may be permitted to speak in their mother tongue.
- **Article 29-** Protection of interests of minorities
- Tamil Nadu has achieved an economic growth rate of 11.19%.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first among states in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), electronics exports, and automobile exports.
- According to central government data, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the leading state in job creation in India.
- Tamil Nadu received the Sports Star Award as the best state in India for sports development.
- Tea Board India under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- **TN SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)** aims to enhance coastal biodiversity, and coastal protection improve livelihoods of coastal communities and control pollution in coastal areas.
- **IUCN Status**
  - Olive Riddley Turtle - **Vulnerable**
  - Green Sea Turtle - **Endangered**
- **TIDCO**
  - Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation established in **1965**.
  - TIDCO is the Nodal Agency for the development of Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), Chennai Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC), Western Corridor (Kochi - Bangalore Industrial Corridor) and Defence Industrial Corridor projects.
- **Shubhanshu Shukla** became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station.
- **PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**
  - Launched in **February 2024** by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
  - Aims to provide **free electricity to one crore households** by installing rooftop solar panels.
  - It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month**.
  - It provides a **subsidy covering up to 40%** of the installation cost.

- **The clouded leopard**, classified as a **vulnerable species** and listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
- **Article 18** of the Constitution abolishes titles, except military and academic distinctions.
- The **Ganga River** is known as the Mother River of India.
- **National Consumer Helpline Number- 1915**
- The cheetah population in India has increased to **over 30**.
- **Madden Julian Oscillation**
  - The **MJO is an eastward-moving tropical atmospheric disturbance** involving clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure patterns.
  - Discovered in **1971 by Roland Madden and Paul Julian**
- Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam launched on **September 15, 2023**
- Pudhumai Penn launched on **September 5, 2022**
- **Article 39(d)** – that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- **Article 201**: Bills reserved for consideration
- **India** crossed about **\$4.1 trillion in nominal GDP** and overtook Japan as the world's fourth largest economy.
- To quickly address passenger grievances related to air travel, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has established a **24×7 Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR)**.
- **Bhavana Choudhary** was appointed as the first woman engineer in the Border Security Force's aviation wing.
- **Landmark Judgements 2025**
  - Supreme Court clarified that no timelines can be fixed for Governors or the President to assent to bills while cautioning against indefinite delay.
  - Speakers do not enjoy constitutional immunity under Article 122 and 212.
  - Supreme Court also struck down key provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, reiterating that parliament can't revive unconstitutional measures.
- The Asiatic lion is the **State animal of Gujarat**. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed them as an **endangered species**.
- India's first astronomical observatory was established in **Nungambakkam, Chennai, in 1792**. Until it was moved to **Kodaikanal**, this observatory determined the Indian Standard Time.
- **Muththamizhselvi** from Joyalapatti in **Virudhunagar district** earned the distinction of being the first woman from Tamil Nadu to reach the summit of **Mount Everest**.
- **P. Amutha** was appointed as the Southern Regional Director of the India Meteorological Department.
- **Sub-Lieutenant Aastha Poonia** achieved the historic feat of becoming the **first woman to be trained as a fighter pilot** in the Indian Navy.
- **Surekha Yadav** is the first female electric train driver in Asia.

