VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE
Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JULY 2025

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Head Office

Old No. 52, New No. 1, 9th Street,
F Block, 1st Avenue Main Road, (Near Istha Siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East – 600 102.
Ph: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666

www.vetriias.com

Preface
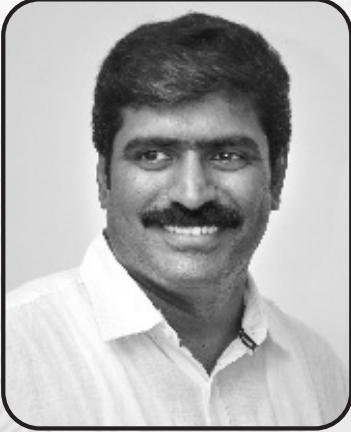
M. SHUNMUGAM
Director
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

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Nipah virus

▪ Nipah virus resurfaces in Kerala, two cases reported.

▪ Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus that can be transmitted from animals to humans and can cause severe respiratory and neurological illnesses.

▪ The organism which causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus.

▪ The disease spreads through fruit bats or **'flying foxes,'** of the genus Pteropus, who are natural reservoir hosts of the Nipah and Hendra viruses.

▪ There is no definitive treatment available for the virus.

Protostar

▪ A team of researchers at the IIST, Thiruvananthapuram, recently discovered radio emission with a special property known as circular polarisation near a massive young protostar that is still forming about 4,500 light-years from Earth.

▪ A protostar is an early stage in the star formation process.

▪ It is a large mass of gas and dust formed as a result of the contraction of a giant molecular cloud in the interstellar medium.

▪ Protostars are usually surrounded by dust, which blocks the light that they emit, so they are difficult to observe in the visible spectrum.

BioEmu

▪ BioEmu is a deep learning system developed by Microsoft, Rice University, and Freie Universität.

▪ It models protein flexibility at high resolution and large scale, unlike traditional methods.

▪ AlphaFold predicts a single stable structure of a protein.

▪ BioEmu predicts the entire range of conformations a protein can adopt — called the equilibrium ensemble.

▪ Protein movement is essential for function — such as enzyme activation, cell signalling, and drug binding.

▪ BioEmu reveals dynamic shapes, like cryptic pockets (temporary drug binding sites).

LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DengiAll

▪ DengiAll - India's first indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine.

▪ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec Ltd. to initiate third phase trials.

▪ Tetravalent vaccine – effective against all four serotypes of the dengue virus (1 to 4).

▪ **Developer**: Panacea Biotec, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

▪ **Funding**: Primarily funded by ICMR, with partial support from Panacea Biotec.

▪ Dengue is a major public health concern in India, which ranks among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease.

▪ There is currently no antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine for dengue in India.

- In India, approximately 75-80% of infections are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can still transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.

Hydrogen Train Test Success

- Chennai ICF factory has achieved a milestone by successfully testing a hydrogen-powered train engine.

- "For the first time in India, a hydrogen-powered train has been successfully tested at Chennai ICF.

- India is developing 1,200 HP capacity hydrogen train engine technology.

- Under the "Hydrogen for Heritage Cities" scheme, plans are in place to operate 35 hydrogen trains.

Low-Cost Medicine Discovery for Sickle Cell Anemia

- The rare disease 'Sickle Cell Anemia' affects tribal populations in states including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra.

- We have now discovered 'PCR' technology that can detect this disease and provide results within 20 minutes.

- The defective gene in the body will be corrected and reintroduced into the body.

- Through this, one can live a lifetime without needing medication.

Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

- India has over **500 traditional rice varieties** that can withstand drought and climate change.

- These improved rice varieties have been named **'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1'.**

- These varieties are considered climate-smart and climate-resilient. **India has become the first country in the world** to develop genome-edited or GE rice varieties.

- The **first variety, DRR Dhan 100 Kamala,** derived from Samba Mahsuri, matures 15-20 days earlier and yields 25% more production The **second variety**, Pusa DST Rice 1, is salinity and alkalinity tolerant and yields **30% higher production** under saline conditions.

SPACE

Space Based Surveillance (SBS) Mission

- Union government has ordered the fast-tracking of the launch of 52 dedicated surveillance satellites under SBS – III Programme.

- SBS – III Programme will help in better land and maritime domain awareness for civilian and military applications.

- It will involve the launch of at least 52 satellites in low earth orbit and geostationary orbit for surveillasce.

- 21 satellites will be built by ISRO and the remaining 31 by private companies.

- The SBS mission is being handled by the National Security Council Secretariat and Defence Space Agency under the Ministry of Defence.

- SBS 1 was launched in 2001, SBS 2 came in 2013.

- The SBS 3 mission will be supported by India's acquisition of 31 Predator drones from the US, joint construction of military satellites with France and anti-satellite missile capabilities.

Axiom-4 crew return

- The SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, piloted by Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego at 3:01 p.m. IST (2:31 a.m. PT) on July 15, 2025.

- The crew spent 18 days on the International Space Station conducting 60 scientific studies across 31 countries.

- Shukla became the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984)

- Shukla became the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) via a private spaceflight, marking a significant milestone in India's space diplomacy and future missions.

- India has completed the human-rating of its HLVM3 rocket and continues progress on its indigenous crew module for Gaganyaan.

- The mission strengthens India's Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) space ambitions and contributes to international collaboration in space exploration.

- **ISRO's 7 Studies**

  - Tissue regeneration, seed germination, blue-green algae cultivation, radiation effects, human physiology, including microgravity and water bubbles - Shukla successfully conducted seven major microgravity-related studies provided by ISRO.

  - He has brought back green gram (mung bean) and fenugreek seeds that sprouted in space, along with other samples.

  - These seeds are set to undergo various studies in the next phase.

- Axiom 4 –Launched on June 25, 2025 (Falcon 9, Kennedy Space Center, USA).

NISAR - First joint satellite of NASA and ISRO

- NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) is the first joint satellite developed by NASA and ISRO.

- Scheduled to be launched on July 30.

- The GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit.

- NISAR satellite, weighing 2,392 kg, is a unique earth observation satellite.

- It is the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar — the NASA's L-band and the ISRO's S-band.

- NISAR will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time.

- NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics.

- Applications of NISAR include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources and disaster response.

Matsya-6000 test boosts Samudrayaan

- India's first manned ocean mission, Samudrayaan, has progressed significantly.

- ISRO successfully tested the personnel sphere of the Matsya-6000 submersible.

- **Key Features of Matsya-6000 Sphere**

  - Material: Titanium-alloy

  - Crew Capacity: 3 members

  - Maximum Depth: 6,000 metres underwater

- For the first time in India, high-penetration Electron Beam Welding (EBW) was used.

GEOGRAPHY

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Urban India

- India is projected to have 675 million urban residents by 2035 and 70 million more by 2045.

- Cities are not just population centres but economic engines driving growth, innovation, and jobs.

- Urban infrastructure (transport, housing, sanitation, waste, etc.) is critical to national productivity.

- India loses $22 billion annually due to urban transport inefficiencies and poor infrastructure (ADB estimate).

- India's Initiatives for Promoting Growth and Sustainability in the Urban Sector.

  - Swachh Bharat Mission
  - Smart Cities Mission
  - National Urban Livelihood Mission
  - PM SVANidhi Scheme
  - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)
  - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation(AMRUT)
  - Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment.

Jarawa tribe - Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The Jarawas are one of the world's oldest surviving tribes and are mostly hunter-gatherers, living in nomadic bands of 40 to 50 individuals.

- The 2011 Census recorded 380 Jarawa individuals out of the 28,530 Scheduled Tribe individuals across Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The communities counted under the ST population also included Andamanese, Nicobarese, Shompen, Onge, and Sentinelese.

- Except the Nicobarese, all communities have been classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Onge tribe

- For the first time, nine Onge tribal children have cleared the Class 10 exam, with their admissions formalised and classes beginning on July 15.

- Onges are one of the most primitive tribes in India. They belong to the Negrito racial stock.

- They inhabit Little Andaman Island, the most southerly island in the Andaman archipelago.

- They are semi-nomadic tribes and fully dependent on the food provided by nature.

- The Onge speak their own language, which has no script.

- The religion of the Onges is simple animism. Neither ceremonial worship nor any kind of propitiation is practiced by them. They believe in different classes of spirits-spirits of the wood, the sea, disease, storm, and ancestors.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

India listed 683 new species, 433 taxa in 2024

- The maximum number of new discoveries of fauna in 2024 was recorded from Kerala with 101 species, followed by Karnataka - 82.

- Tamil Nadu recorded 63 discoveries with 50 new species and 13 new records.

- The details of new discoveries and new records were released by Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change.

- In terms of plant discoveries, the highest number of flora discovered were from Kerala (58), followed by Maharashtra (45) and Uttarakhand (40).

- The new plant discoveries for 2024 record 154 angiosperms, 4 pteridophytes, 15 bryophytes, 63 lichens, 156 fungi, 32 algae and 9 microbes.

- The hotspot regions such as Western Ghats and North-Eastern regions have contributed 35% of total discoveries.

- India has recorded and documented 56,177 species of plants — angiosperms, gymnosperms, pteridophytes, bryophytes, lichens, fungi, and algae etc.

- The significant faunal discoveries for the year 2024 include two new genus and 37 species of reptiles and five new species of amphibians.

World Bioproduct Day 2025

- The Department of Science & Technology (DST), along with BIRAC and iBRIC+, organized World Bioproduct Day 2025, focusing on Equity, Environment, and Economy to highlight the importance of inclusive public participation in biotechnology.

- The event also reiterated the government's goal of achieving a USD 300 billion bioeconomy by 2030 under the BioE3 framework.

- Bioproducts are fuels, materials, and chemicals made from renewable biomass like crops, trees, algae, and agricultural waste.

- Bioproducts reduce reliance on fossil fuels, thereby addressing air pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss.

About BioE3 Policy

- The BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment), launched by the Department of Biotechnology in 2024 to promote high-performance biomanufacturing by integrating advanced biotechnological processes across key sectors.

- It aims to strengthen India's bioeconomy through sustainable practices, innovation, and employment generation.

- It supports India's broader goals of achieving a 'Net Zero' carbon economy and promoting sustainable growth through a circular bioeconomy.

Great Hornbill

- In a rare sighting, the Great Hornbill was spotted in Kannur's (Kerala) coastal region.

- Native to parts of South and Southeast Asia including India, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

- In India, it is found in the Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, Northeast, and parts of Central India.

- It serves as the official State Bird of both Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Hornbill festival celebrated in Nagaland is named after this, which is the most revered and admired bird for the Nagas.

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable

- **CITES**: Appendix I

- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule I

Genetic analysis of Assam rhino horn samples

- A specialised team has begun DNA analysis of 2,573 rhino horn samples in Assam.

- Verification and repackaging of samples done at Kaziranga (July 3–8).

- Samples sent to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun for analysis.

- The WII's genetics laboratory is central to the RhoDIS (Rhino DNA Index System) India programme under the supervision of Samrat Mondol.

- This analysis aims to document the individual DNA profiles of the rhino horn and add them to the RhoDIS India DNA data library.

- **Kaziranga National Park (Assam) –** Largest population (~2,613 as of 2022).

- **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable.

Artificial rain

- Artificial rain may fill Jaipur's Ramgarh dam after 20 years.

- Artificial rain will be created using drones and AI technology.

- Artificial rain (cloud seeding) , is a weather modification technique that aims to increase precipitation by dispersing substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds.

- Substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride are dispersed into clouds using aircraft, rockets, or ground generators to encourage the formation of raindrops.

- Ramgarh Dam, located near Jaipur, is a historic structure built by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh in 1903.

WHO Launches Science and Policy Summaries (SPS) on Air Pollution and Health

- WHO launched a new series of **Science and Policy Summaries (SPS)** to tackle the global health impacts of **air pollution and its significant health impacts**, especially in **low- and middle-income countries.**

- Released after the **Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health** (March 2025, Cartagena, Colombia).

Global Concern

- Air pollution is a **major risk factor** for **noncommunicable diseases.**

- In 2021, around **6.4 million deaths** were linked to **particulate matter exposure.**

- 93% of these deaths occurred in **low-and middle-income countries.**

Legal Framework for Meteorological Services – IMD

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** has constituted the committee to formulate a legal framework for meteorological services in India.

- **Focus Areas:**
  - **Defining** the roles, responsibilities, and structure of agencies like the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
  - Addressing legal gaps in meteorological governance.

- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** mandates all member countries to enact legislation or policies for hydro-meteorological services.

About India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **Established:** In 1875, the IMD is the National Meteorological Service of India.
- **Ministry**: operating under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Headquarter**: New Delhi. IMD has **6 Regional Meteorological Centres:** Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Guwahati.
- IMD is also **one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.**
- However, no law currently governs its structure or responsibilities.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO),** which was founded in 1873.
- Established in 1950, WMO became the **specialized agency of the UN** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- **Headquarter**: Geneva, Switzerland.

GEOGRAPHICAL LANDMARKS

Panna Tiger Reserve

- Vatsala', considered to be Asia's oldest elephant, died recently at the age of more than 100 years at the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- Panna Tiger Reserve is located in the Vindhyan mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is the only tiger reserve in the entire Bundhelkhand region.
- It was declared a Project Tiger Reserve by the Government of India in 1994.

- The Ken River flows from south to north through the reserve.

Amarnath Yatra

- The 38-day annual Amarnath pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine in South Kashmir will commence on 3rd July, 2025, and conclude on 9th August, 2025 (Raksha Bandhan).
- The pilgrimage will begin simultaneously from both routes – Pahalgam track (Anantnag district) and Baltal (Ganderbal district).
- Amarnath Peak, a part of the Himalayas is a mountain with a peak elevation of 5,186 meters, in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, in the vicinity of Sonamarg.

Doklam

- Doklam is a plateau in the Chumbi Valley at the tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China.
- It is located 68 km east of Gangtok, Sikkim, at an altitude of 13,780 feet.
- Doklam is being opened as a battlefield tourism site starting September 2025.
- Initiative by the Defence Ministry under the Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan scheme.

Other Battlefield Sites in Sikkim:

- Nathu La (already a tourist spot; 58 km from Gangtok).
- Cho La, site of 1967 clashes between Indian and Chinese troops.
- All three are being developed with cafeterias, restrooms, amenities, and parking in collaboration with the Indian Army.

Sikkim's Status:

- Was an Indian protectorate until 1975.
- Became India's 22nd State after a referendum in May 1975.

INDIAN POLITY

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- During the special revision of voter lists in Bihar, the Election Commission (EC) announced that people born after 1987 do not need to show their parents' birth proof—if their parents' names are already on the 2003 voter list.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The Election Commission of India is a permanent and independent constitutional authority, established under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.

- ECI is responsible for conducting elections to the Parliament, state legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President of India.

- The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners. They serve for a term not exceeding six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

- Chief Election Commissioner of India – Gyanesh Kumar

- Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu – Tmt. Archana Patnaik (First Female)

New criminal laws

- One year after the new criminal laws replaced the old colonial-era laws in Tamil Nadu, the State government has sent its first list of suggested changes and is now preparing more such changes.

- Three new criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) are set to take effect from 1st July 2024, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act.

Phone Tapping -Invasion of the Right to Privacy- Madras High Court

- High Court refused to expand the scope of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, and permit the Central and State governments to resort to phone tapping as a covert measure for detection of crimes.

- As per Section 5(2), the Centre or the State governments could authorise phone tapping only in case of two contingencies:

  - On the occurrence of any public emergency
  - In the interest of public safety.

- The court emphasized that these are strict thresholds, and its role is to verify if these are met.

- Phone tapping is an invasion of the right to privacy, a part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty (Article 21) of the Constitution.

Question Hour and Zero Hour

- Mr. Birla proposed that municipal bodies incorporate procedures such as Question Hour and Zero Hour to allow elected representatives to raise issues concerning their constituencies.

Question Hour

- It is a one-hour time period provided to MPs to ask questions to the minister and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.

▪ The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers)

Zero Hour

▪ Zero hour commences directly after the question hour and extends until the commencement of the day's agenda, signifying the interval between the two.

▪ Under this, Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise matters without any prior notice.

▪ Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. The phrase is not mentioned in the rules of procedure.

Census 2027

▪ The first phase House Listing Operations and Housing Schedule (HLO) expected to begin on April 1, 2026.

▪ For Census 2021, which will now be known as Census 2027, as many as 31 questions were notified for the first phase.

▪ This will be the first digital Census and also the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

▪ Caste will be counted in the second and the main phase: the Population Census which will be conducted in February 2027.

Waqf

▪ The Central Government has announced the Integrated Waqf Administration (IWA) Governance, Efficiency and Development Rules 2025.

▪ A Waqf is a property donated by Muslims for a specific religious, charitable, or private purpose.

▪ Waqf properties are governed by the Waqf Act, of 1995, which replaced the Central Waqf Act, of 1954.

▪ Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, renamed as the UMEED Act, aims to address several challenges in the administration and management of Waqf properties.

▪ Central Waqf Council (CWC): A statutory body established in 1964, oversees and advises state-level Waqf Boards across India.

▪ Waqf Boards act as custodians of Waqf properties in their respective states.

Indian diaspora

▪ Thirty-five million members of the Indian diaspora spread across the world.

▪ 6th generation Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive OCI cards.

▪ Trinidad and Tobago for being the first country in the Caribbean to adopt India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system.

About OCI Cardholders

▪ The OCI Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 in 2005.

▪ Eligibility: Any foreign national, except a national of Pakistan or Bangladesh,

▪ OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. OCI does not confer political rights to vote.

▪ Not eligible to hold Indian constitutional posts: President (Article 58); for election of Vice-President (Article 66); Judge of the Supreme Court (Article 124) and High Court (Article 217).

POCSO Act

▪ It is the first comprehensive law in India dealing specifically with the sexual abuse of children, enacted in 2012.

▪ It is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).

- The Act was designed to protect children aged less than 18 from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography offences and provide for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offences and related matters and incidents.

- The Act was amended for the first time in 2019 to enhance the punishments for specific offences in order to deter abusers and ensure a dignified childhood.

- This amendment enhanced the punishment to include the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of the child.

National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

About

- The new policy supersedes the existing

- National Sports Policy, 2001

- It lays out a visionary and strategic roadmap to establish India as a global sporting powerhouse and a strong contender for excellence at international sporting eventa, including the 2036 Olympic Games.

Key Features of NSP 2025

- The policy is anchored on five key pillars.

- Excellence on the Global Stage: To build India

- as a global leader in sports by nurturing talent and improving sports infrastructure.

- Grassroots Development: Establish a robust

- system for identifying and nurturing young talent.

- Sports Infrastructure: Develop world-class sports facilities in rural and urban areas.

- Sports Science & Technology: Integrate

- sports science, medicine, and technology to enhance athlete performance.

- Capacity Building of Sports Federations:

- Improve governance and operational capabilities of National Sports Federationa (NSF).

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- Five members of the commission, including the Chairperson, have retired since December 2024, with no new appointments made so far.

- The NCM, which works under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and has quasi-judicial powers, should have seven members, including the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory body established in India under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

- Initially, five religious communities, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis), were notified as minority communities by the Union Government.

- Further, with the 2014 notification, Jains were also notified as another minority community.

- As per the 2011 Census, The Six religious minority communities constitute around 20% of the country's population

- The delayed appointments at the NCM have impacted the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), a quasi-judicial body that aims to safeguard the educational rights of minorities.

- The NCMEI is also an advisory body to the Union government on minority educational institutions.

- The NCMEI, which works under the Ministry of Education, should have three members, and a Chairperson of at least the rank of a retired judge from a High Court.

India's "First Digital Census"

- According to the Registrar-General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner, Data from the 2027 Census will be "available early" as the exercise will be conducted digitally.

- The country's "first digital Census" will be conducted in two phases, and "for the first time, technology will be used to collect data and send it electronically to the central server".

- Census 2027 would offer the option of self-enumeration "through a dedicated web portal.

- Data will be collected using Mobile Apps (both Android & iOS) in English, Hindi, and regional languages.

- According to the constitutional mandate, the first Census after 2026 can be used as the basis to redraw Lok Sabha constituencies. The next general election is due in 2029.

- The population census along with caste-wise enumeration will be conducted on October 1, 2026, in the snow-covered regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand states, Ladakh Union Territory, and Jammu-Kashmir Union Territory.

"*Final Administrative Boundary Demarcation*"

- The Registrar General of India (RGI) has planned that if changes are to be made to the administrative boundaries of districts, sub-districts, taluks, and police stations, they should be completed before December 31.

National Population Register (NPR)

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a database containing details of all usual residents in India.

- The NPR is the first step towards the creation of a National Register of Citizens.

- A "usual resident" is defined as an individual who has been residing in an area for six months or more or someone who intends to reside in that area for the next six months.

- It is mandatory for all "usual residents" to register under the NPR.

- The NPR was introduced as part of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

- The NPR was first created in 2010 and updated in 2015-16.

- The NPR has details of household-wise database of 119 crore usual residents of the country.

- It is maintained by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- NPR data can be shared with government agencies and States, unlike the Census data.

National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

- NSP 2025 aims to build a new sporting culture by mainstreaming sports as part of national development.

- **Five Pillars Approach:**
  - Sports excellence
  - Social and economic development through sports
  - Sports as a people's movement

- Sports culture promotion
- Alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

▪ Unlike the basic 2001 policy, NSP 2025 incorporates sports science, technology, innovation, and economic dimensions (e.g., CSR funding, sports startups, tourism).

▪ Supports India's ambition to host Commonwealth Games 2030 and Olympics 2036, while building a self-sustaining sports economy.

▪ Emphasises early talent identification, professional training in schools, and making sports a viable career option.

▪ Strong alignment with NEP 2020 by integrating sports and academics, promoting sports for all, and encouraging equal importance to physical education.

▪ Expands focus to include women, differently-abled, and economically weaker sections, beyond rural/tribal areas, making sports a tool for social transformation.

▪ Seeks to use sports as a catalyst for inclusive development and national progress.

India's linguistic secularism

▪ According to the 2011 Census, India has 121 languages and 270 mother tongues.

▪ While religion and language are the two most crucial aspects of any culture, these are also the predominant cross-cultural barriers.

▪ Article 29 ensures minority groups can protect their language, script, or culture, and prohibits language-based discrimination.

▪ Unlike Western secularism, India's model includes protection of both religious and linguistic diversity as a constitutional principle.

▪ India has no national language; Hindi is only the official language of the Union (Article 343), and States can choose their own official languages.

▪ 22 languages are constitutionally recognized, covering 96.71% of the population's mother tongues.

▪ Protecting every language equally, promoting tolerance and liberality, is essential for maintaining India's secular and democratic fabric.

Temple entry cannot be denied based on caste in a country governed by rule of law- Supreme Court

▪ Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court ruled that temple entry cannot be denied based on caste.

▪ Emphasized that discrimination based on caste violates the rule of law in India.

▪ Cited the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, especially Section 3, which guarantees temple entry to all Hindus regardless of caste or sect.

▪ Violations of this provision are considered actionable offences and can lead to legal prosecution.

The 14th Vice-President of India submits his resignation to President

▪ The 14th Vice-President of India - Jagdeep Dhankhar

Vice-President of India

▪ Article 63 – Office of Vice-President of India.

▪ Article 64 - Serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and cannot hold any other office of profit.

- Article 65 - Vice President shall act as President in the event of a vacancy or the President's inability to discharge duties.

- Article 67 - Serves a five-year term from the date of assuming office and continues until their successor assumes charge.

- Article 67(a) - A Vice President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.

- Article 67(b) - Vice President may be removed if an effective majority "all the then members of Rajya Sabha" passes a resolution for his removal, which must then be "agreed to" by the Lok Sabha, with at least 14 days' notice given before moving the resolution.

- **Resolution for removal is introduced only in RS**

- Constitution mentions no ground for removal.

- As of now, no Vice President of India has ever been removed from office through impeachment.

- V.V. Giri (Vice President from 1967–1969) resigned in 1969 to contest the presidential election after the death of President Zakir Husain.

Types of Rights

- Natural Rights – Inherent and inalienable (e.g., right to life, liberty). Not directly enforceable by courts.

- Fundamental Rights – Guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution; directly enforceable under Article 32.

- Constitutional Rights – Found in the Constitution (but outside Part III); e.g., right to property, free trade.

- Statutory Rights – Given through laws passed by Parliament or State Legislatures; e.g., MGNREGS, Food Security.

- **Right to Vote: Current Legal Status**

  - Right to vote is a statutory right, not a fundamental or constitutional right (as per current Supreme Court rulings).

  - Article 326: Grants universal adult suffrage — every citizen above 18 years has the right to vote, unless disqualified.

  - Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951: Only those on the electoral roll can vote; excludes prisoners and disqualified persons.

Key Court Judgments

- N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) & Jyoti Basu (1982): Right to vote is statutory.

- PUCL case (2003): Justice Reddy called it a constitutional right, though not fundamental.

- Kuldip Nayar (2006) & Anoop Baranwal (2023): Reaffirmed as statutory right.

- Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissent (Anoop Baranwal): Called voting a form of expression under Article 19(1)(a); essential to free and fair elections, part of the basic structure — suggested that it should be elevated to a constitutional right.

Madras High Court's Verdict on FIR Registration Under SC/ST Act

- The **Madras High Court** delivered a **landmark ruling** regarding FIR registration under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.**

- The Court held that no preliminary inquiry is allowed before FIR registration in such cases.

- **Section 18A (1) (a)** of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)

Act, 1989, which was introduced through the 2018 amendment.

▪ Supreme Court in **Lalita Kumari v. Govt. of U.P. (2014),** which held that registration of FIR is mandatory in cognisable offences and that any delay violates Article 21.

▪ The constitutional mandate of social justice and equality are:

  • **Article 15(2)** – prohibition of discrimination on grounds of caste,

  • **Article 17 –** abolition of untouchability,

  • **Article 21** – right to life with dignity,

  • **Article 46** – Directive Principle to protect SCs/STs from social injustice and exploitation.

National Cooperation Policy 2025

▪ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled the National Cooperation Policy 2025 on 24 July, 2025.

▪ Aim: Inclusive, member-centric, tech-driven cooperative development.

▪ New Sectoral Focus: Tourism, Taxi services (launch soon), Insurance (launch soon), Green energy.

Core Focus Areas

▪ Marginalised Communities: Dalits, Adivasis, and women placed at the core of the policy

▪ Inclusivity Goal: Aimed at inclusive development of 130 crore Indians

Significance

▪ Only the second cooperation policy since Independence (First in 2002 by Vajpayee government)

Strategic Goals by 2034

▪ **Triple** the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP

▪ **50 crore** active members in the cooperative sector

▪ **30% increase** in cooperative societies

▪ At least **one cooperative society in every village/panchayat**

▪ **Five model cooperative villages in every tehsil**

Six Pillars of the Policy

▪ **Strengthening the foundation**

▪ Promoting vibrancy in cooperatives

▪ Preparing societies for the future

▪ **Enhancing inclusivity & expanding reach**

▪ **Expanding into new sectors**

▪ Youth participation in cooperative development

Rural Economic Impact

▪ Profits from new ventures to reach PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies)

▪ Cooperatives seen as a tool for aspiration fulfilment in rural India

Long-Term Outcomes

▪ Cooperative sector at **par with corporate sector**

▪ Target: **A Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047**

▪ Enhanced role of **cooperative exports, branding,** and seed production

▪ Promotes **self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)** and economic dignity

"India Targets 90% 5G Coverage by 2030"

▪ National Telecom Policy 2025 (NTP-25) draft released by **Department of Telecommunications (DoT).**

▪ Builds on the progress of the **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018.**

- **Coverage Goals by 2030:**
  - 100% population coverage with 4G
  - 90% population coverage with 5G
- **Economic Objectives:**
  - Double the telecom sector's contribution to India's GDP.
  - Attract annual investments worth ₹1,00,000 crore.
- **Boost to Telecom Exports and Startups:**
  - Double exports of telecom products and 5G services.
  - Double the number of telecom startups in the country.
- **Strategic Framework:** Draft policy outlines 10 strategic objectives to be met by 2030.
- **Technology Focus:** 5G/6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Quantum Communications, Satellite Networks, Blockchain.

POSH Act 2013

- A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court demanding that political parties also follow the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (POSH Act) 2013.
- Women involved in politics are excluded from receiving protection under the POSH Act. This is contrary to Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Employment in India Rises to 64.33 Crores

- In India, while the number of employed people was **47.5** crores in 2017-18, this number has increased to **64.33** crores in 2023-24.

- **Women's workforce participation** has increased from 28.7% in 2019-20 to 40.3% in 2023-24.
- The **unemployment** rate has declined from **6% to 3.2%.**
- **Youth unemployment** has decreased from **17.8% to 10.2%.**

Vice President of India

- Vice President - Second-highest constitutional position in India.
- The election to the office of Vice-President is governed by The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.
- The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including nominated members.
- The nomination paper has to be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and at least 20 electors as seconders

President's Rule in Manipur Extended for Another 6 Months

- The House has approved the extension of President's Rule in Manipur state for another 6 months, which was proclaimed on February 13, 2025, under Article 356 of the Constitution.
- This will come into effect from August 13.
- President's Rule implemented in a state typically lasts for 6 months.

- However, with Parliament's approval, it can be extended for up to 3 years, renewed every six months.

- Student Suicides in Educational Institutions: Supreme Court Issues 15 Guidelines

- These guidelines will remain in effect until the government enacts appropriate legislation regarding this matter.

- All educational institutions must follow uniform mental health protection programs and national suicide prevention guidelines.

- Educational institutions with 100 or more students must appoint qualified counselors, psychologists, or social workers to provide guidance on mental health protection for young students.

Deputy President Election and Qualifications

- The Deputy President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both houses of Parliament.

- This election is conducted through proportional representation using the single transferable vote system. Voting in this election takes place through secret ballot.

Qualifications:

- For someone to be elected Deputy President, they must:

- Be an **Indian citizen**

- Have **completed 35 years of age**

- Be **qualified for election to the Rajya Sabha.**

Disqualifications:

- Any person holding any **office of profit under the Indian government, state government, or local government** bodies under them shall be considered disqualified.

National Anti-Doping Bill - 2025

- Based on instructions from the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA),** the National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill (2025) was introduced in the Lok Sabha to enhance operational independence and authority of the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).**

- The bill seeks to **align provisions with international best practices** and the World Anti-Doping Code.

INDIAN ECONOMY

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX

- The Industrial Production Index (IIP) was recorded at 12 percent in May.
- This is a decrease compared to April when the country's IIP was 2.6 percent.
- The April IIP, which was initially announced at 27 percent, was later revised to 2.5 percent.

About Industrial Production Index

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) 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).
- Eight Core Industries (Weight in IIP: 40.27%) (2025 data):
- **Listed in decreasing order of weightage:** Refinery Products, Electricity, Steel, Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Cement, Fertilisers

World Bank Report - 'Poverty and Equality'

- According to a World Bank report, Inequality in India has come down significantly between 2011-12 and 2022-23, making it the fourth-most equal country globally.
- This is in addition to a sharp decrease in extreme poverty, which has dropped from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23.

- India's Gini Index stands at 25.5 in 2022-23 from 28.8 in 2011-12, making it the fourth most equal country in the world, after the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Belarus.
- The report also pointed to various government initiatives that have helped drive this transformation.
- The PM Jan Dhan Yojana has widened financial inclusion with over 55 crore bank accounts.
- Aadhaar, the national digital ID system, now covers more than 142 crore people, making welfare delivery through Direct Benefit Transfers more efficient and saving Rs 3.48 lakh crore by March 2023.
- Schemes like Ayushman Bharat, which offers Rs 5 lakh health cover and has issued over 41 crore cards, has also improved healthcare equity.
- Schemes like Stand-Up India support SC/ST and women entrepreneurs, while the PM Vishwakarma Yojana helps artisans with loans and training.
- The PMGKAY(Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana) food security programme has supported more than 80 crore people

About Gini Index

- The Gini Index helps in understanding how equally income, wealth or consumption is distributed across households or individuals in a country.
- It ranges in value from zero (Perfect inequality) to 100(Maximum inequality).
- The higher the Gini Index, the more unequal a country is.

Wholesale and Retail Inflation

▪ Inflation continued to cool in June with retail inflation coming in at a 77-month low of 2.1% and wholesale inflation registering a contraction after 20 months.

Wholesale Inflation

▪ It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.

▪ Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

▪ It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India.

▪ The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

Retail Inflation

▪ Retail inflation, also known as Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption

Consumer Price Index

▪ It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail buyer. It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

▪ Four types of CPI are as follows:

  • CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).

  • CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).

  • CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).

  • CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).

▪ Of these, the first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Fourth is compiled by the NSO in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Base Year for CPI is 2012.

▪ Recently, the Ministry of Labour and Employment released the new series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) with base year 2016.

▪ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) uses CPI data to control inflation. In April 2014, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had adopted the CPI as its key measure of inflation.

Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) dividends to Centre almost double since 2020

▪ The Centre's dividend receipts from non-banking PSUs have nearly doubled from ₹39,558 crore in 2020-21 to ₹74,017 crore in 2024-25.

▪ The analysis excluded dividends from the RBI and nationalised banks.

▪ The growth in dividends is attributed to a "calibrated" approach balancing disinvestment and dividend revenues.

▪ Five fuel-related PSUs — Coal India Ltd, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, and GAIL — contributed ₹1.27 lakh crore, accounting for 42.3% of total dividends received since 2020-21.

▪ This analysis carried out by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) (past 5 years date).

Indian Tea Exports See a Rise

▪ In the 2024-25 fiscal years, India's tea exports increased by 2.85 percent compared to the previous fiscal year.

- North India's tea exports rose by 6.15% to 16.12 crore kg.

- South India's tea exports declined by 4.92% to 9.67 crore kg.

- From January to December 2024, tea exports rose by 10.57% to 25.62 crore kg.

- During the same calendar year, North India's exports increased by 10.28% to 15.55 crore kg.

- South India's exports grew by 11.02% to 10.07 crore kg, as per Tea Board statistics.

Index of eight core industries

- The Index of Eight Core Industries grew by 1.7% in June 2025.

- This is a 3-month high, but significantly lowers than 5% in June 2024.

- Also below the average growth of 6.3% in FY 2024–25.

- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The data showed that the coal sector saw the largest contraction.

- The three sectors that witnessed growth in June 2025 were steel, cement, and refinery products.

- The eight core industries (weightage- 40.27%) in India are: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.

TAMIL NADU

RESERVATION FOR DIFFERENTLY - ABLED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES

▪ According to the Tamil Nadu Local Government Amendment Act, the Tamil Nadu government has called for application forms for the nomination of differently-abled persons as members to municipal corporations, municipalities, and town panchayats.

▪ Through this, 12,000 differently-abled individuals will get opportunities in local government bodies.

▪ In all local government bodies in Tamil Nadu - including village panchayats, panchayat unions, town panchayats, municipalities, and municipal corporations - differently-abled persons are being made members through nomination rather than directly contesting elections.

▪ Amendments have been made to the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 and the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1998. 650 differently-abled persons will be appointed in urban local bodies, 12,913 differently-abled persons in village panchayats, 388 differently-abled persons in panchayat unions, and 37 differently-abled persons in district panchayats.

UMIS Platform

▪ The Information Technology Minister has announced that 9.40 lakh students have benefited from the Tamil Pudhalvan and Pudhumai Penn schemes through the University Management Information System (UMIS) platform.

▪ The University Management Information System (UMIS) operates by integrating data from all higher education institutions and students in Tamil Nadu.

▪ Similar to the Education Management Information System (EMIS), this platform is designed as a single-window system and carries out functions including automating processes and helping to conduct analyses required for the higher education sector.

About Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on August 9, 2024, launched the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme in Coimbatore.

▪ Under this, boys of the state government schools and government aided schools who join colleges will get ₹1,000 per month.

▪ It is on the lines of Pudmaipen Scheme for girl students.

About Pudhumai Penn Scheme

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on September 5,2022, launched the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance scheme titled 'Pudhumai Penn' at a function in Chennai, in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

▪ Under Pudhumai Penn scheme, girl students, who studied from Class VI to Class XII in state government schools and government aided schools, would be paid a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 till they complete their graduation or diploma or ITI courses.

Launch of Websites for Water Body Protection

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched websites for water body protection and water resource information management system based on satellite data and AI technology to identify encroachments in water bodies.

▪ Rs. 30 crores was allocated to develop the website for Tamil Nadu Water Resources Information Management System (TNWRIMS).

- To create this website, all data has been collected from various stakeholders who use water.
- This system, which provides real-time information, contains 11 modules including water supply, demand, quality, users, village water income-expenditure, drought and drinking water shortage status, water flow forecasting, reservoir operation improvement, groundwater information, inter-basin water transfer, and water conservation programs.
- This system has been integrated with the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department

Mobile PDS Shops

- The Tamil Nadu State government launched a pilot project to deliver essential commodities directly to senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs) in Chennai.
- This initiative aims to improve access to the public distribution system (PDS) for those who may struggle to visit traditional fair price shops
- The pilot project spans multiple districts, including Cuddalore, Tirunelveli, and Dindigul.

Nutrition Farming Mission

- Tamil Nadu government's nutrition farming mission was launched in Trichy and the delta districts on July 4, 2025.
- Farmers would receive farm inputs such as pulse seeds, vegetable seeds and fruit plants from the agriculture and horticulture departments as part of the mission to cultivate nutritious crops.
- Objective of the Mission: To encourage the cultivation and production of nutritious pulses, vegetables and fruits and also boost the income of farmers in the state.
- The government is encouraging the farmers to utilize the nutrition farming initiative as a

form of alternative farming to crops such as paddy, cotton, groundnut and sugarcane.

- Under the mission, the agriculture department is distributing five varieties of pulse seeds, while the horticulture department is providing five varieties of vegetable seeds and six varieties of fruit seedings.
- In Trichy district, 2,000 farmers would receive pulse seeds, while 54,500 would receive vegetable seeds, and 32,900 would receive fruit seedlings in a total of 14 blocks under a one-hundred percent subsidy.
- The departments have fixed annual targets for the distribution of farm inputs.

Mangrove Forests in Tamil Nadu

- "Through the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu has planted 16 lakh mangrove plants in just the past 3 years and restored 707 hectares of mangrove area.
- Tamil Nadu has achieved a record by creating new mangrove forests covering 1,350 hectares in Tiruvarur district alone.

About Tamil Nadu Mission

- Tamil Nadu launched the Green Tamil Nadu Mission in September 2022, aiming to increase the state's green cover from 23.7% to 33% over the next ten years.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the mission at Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur.

Ungaludan Stalin' initiative

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is set to launch the first camp of the 'Ungaludan Stalin' (Stalin with You) initiative on July 15 at the Chidambaram Municipality in Cuddalore district.
- Under this initiative, 10,000 special camps will be organised across both rural and urban areas in all districts from July 15 to November.
- Medical camps will also be conducted at all these camps to provide health services.

▪ The initiative aims at directly addressing public grievances and brings government services and welfare schemes directly to people's neighbourhoods.

▪ Applications received at these camps will be processed within 45 days.

▪ Chief Minister Stalin has announced that hostels for poor students in schools and colleges operating throughout Tamil Nadu will henceforth be called 'Social Justice Hostels (Samuga Neethi viduthigal).'

Initiatives for the welfare of conservancy workers

▪ Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme - Through the scheme 100 sewage suction vehicles were distributed at a subsidised cost.

▪ Through the Sanitary Workers Welfare Board, the State government has provided 1,000 houses at a 90% subsidised cost to sanitation workers in Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Board tenements.

▪ The Deputy Chief Minister launched the official website of the Tamil Nadu Sanitary Workers Welfare Board and released hygiene related books for students from Classes 1 to 10 of the Greater Chennai Corporation schools.

About Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABCS)

▪ The scheme "Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABCS)" was launched by the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Tamil Nadu.

▪ In order to promote the economic development of SC/ST entrepreneurs, this scheme has been launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

▪ The new scheme will provide a 35% capital subsidy and offer a 6% interest subvention for loans to procure machinery and equipment.

Transgenders under Pudhumai Penn Scheme

▪ Transgenders will also receive ì 1000 per month under Pudhumai Penn Scheme

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▪ Innuyir Kaappom - Nam Kakkum 48 Program (Life Protection - Our Protection 48 Program)

▪ Health Minister Ma. Subramanian has announced that the central government will implement the Innuyir Kaappom Nam Kakkum 48 program throughout India.

▪ The Chief Minister launched this program on December 18, 2021.

▪ The scheme ensures the government pays for the medical bills of all accident victims in enlisted hospitals for treatment within 48 hours of the accident.

▪ All medical care services will be covered under the scheme.

▪ The free treatment will be provided in collaboration with the Department of Highways and Department of Transport.

"Magizhchi Muttram" program to be excellently implemented in government schools this year

▪ The School Education Department has ordered that the "Magizhchi Muttram" (Joy Courtyard) program should be excellently implemented in government schools this year.

▪ The "Magizhchi Muttram" student group was introduced in government schools during the 2024-25 academic year.

▪ This program is implemented with the aim of developing students' leadership qualities.

▪ In this program, students are divided into 5 groups named Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham, Neithal, and Palai, with responsible teachers appointed for each group.

▪ Each group should have both male and female students as group leaders.

Paadham Kaappom Thittam

▪ The Tamil Nadu Public Health Department has announced that artificial limbs are being provided to those who have lost their legs due to diabetes under the Paadham Kaappom Thittam.

▪ 10% of India's population is affected by diabetes. In Tamil Nadu, this rate is 12%.

About Paadham Kaappom Thittam

▪ The Department of Public Welfare has introduced the 'Foot Protection Program' in 2023, with the aim of preventing leg loss due to diabetes.

▪ Under this program, measures are being taken including awareness about foot protection, prevention of foot ulcers, foot surgery, and provision of artificial legs.

▪ So far, 21.74 lakh people have been examined at foot care centers established across Tamil Nadu, and 19,500 people have been diagnosed with complications and provided treatment.

▪ Foot examinations are being conducted across Tamil Nadu through healthcare workers who reach out to the people. For those requiring surgery, procedures are performed at government hospitals.

▪ If legs are lost due to foot ulcers, artificial limbs can be obtained under the Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme.

▪ Those who have undergone surgery at private hospitals can also apply to the government for artificial legs with proper medical documentation.

State Planning Commission submits four reports to CM

▪ The State Planning Commission submitted four detailed reports on various subjects to Chief Minister at the Secretariat in Chennai.

▪ One of the reports called for profiling and data organisation of all mines in Tamil Nadu urgently to facilitate large-scale land-use planning.

▪ The report 'Mapping Mines in Tamil Nadu — Assessing their Restoration Potential' said the process could begin with mines exceeding a certain size threshold.

▪ The report 'Child Nutrition — Key Challenges and Strategies' recommended emphasis on improving linear growth among children to reduce stunting, with a focus on early-life interventions.

▪ The report 'Urban Growth and Thermal Stress: A Decadal Assessment of Built-up Area and Climate Interactions in Tamil Nadu' called for a comprehensive heat mitigation strategy for the State.

▪ The 'Framework for Nature-based Solutions for Enhanced Urban Resilience in Tier 2 Cities of Tamil Nadu — Framework Report' suggested incorporating nature-based

solutions into the urban planning systems of Tier 2 cities to mitigate climate risks that arise as the cities undergo accelerated economic and demographic expansion.

"Urban Growth and Thermal Stress: A Decadal Assessment of Built-Up Area and Climate Interactions in Tamil Nadu" Report

▪ Tamil Nadu released the state's first-ever block-level spatial analysis of heat exposure.

▪ The study conducted by the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board and State Planning Commission.

▪ The study builds on the Tamil Nadu Heat Mitigation Strategy (2024), reveals that rising temperatures, driven by urban sprawl, deforestation, and changing land use, are putting people, ecosystems, and infrastructure at increasing risk.

▪ It integrates three decades of data, using satellite imagery, elevation models, and climate reanalysis to present, possibly for the first time, a block-level understanding of heat exposure across the State.

▪ Tamil Nadu could experience annual air temperature increases of 0.9°C to 2.7°C by 2050.

▪ Blocks such as Sriperumbudur, Poonamallee, and Kundrathur — peri-urban zones with little built-up area in 1985 — have rapidly urbanised and now record high heat intensities.

▪ Coastal districts, already vulnerable to sea-level rise and cyclonic activity, are doubly exposed to extreme heat, making integrated adaptation planning essential.

▪ A separate report titled 'Framework for Nature-based Solution(NbS) for enhancing Urban Resilience in Tier 2 cities also by the state planning commission, highlights the potential of NbS to reduce disaster risks, improve urban liveability and restore ecosystem services.

Predictive model for estimating the risk of death among adults diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB)

▪ Tamil Nadu has become the first state of India to use a predictive model for estimating the risk of death among adults diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB).

▪ This model is integrated with the state's existing TB SeWA application, which assists healthcare workers in triaging patients immediately at diagnosis.

▪ The predictive model was developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE).

▪ It was launched recently and incorporated into Tamil Nadu's TB SeWA (Severe TB Web Application).

▪ TB SeWA has been operational since 2022 under the Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET), a differentiated care model focusing on early identification of severe TB cases.

▪ Data from the past three years show that 10-15% of adult TB patients in Tamil Nadu are severely ill at diagnosis.

▪ The average time from diagnosis to admission for these patients is one day, but about 25% still face delays of up to six days.

Green Hydrogen Research Center

▪ Hyundai Motor Company, in collaboration with IIT Chennai, has unveiled the model design for a green hydrogen research center to be established in Chennai at a cost of ₹180 crores, as announced by the Industries Minister.

▪ The green hydrogen research center will be established at IIT Chennai's Discovery satellite campus in Taiyur, spanning 65,000 square feet at a cost of ₹crores.

- Hydrogen fuel can be produced from waste materials.
- Agricultural waste products will also be utilized for hydrogen production.
- The first phase of testing is planned to be conducted within the next 2 years.
- Pollution will be reduced during hydrogen fuel production.
- This will serve as an encouragement for efforts to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in the country by 2070.

Kaval Karangal Scheme

- Since its inception in 2021, the **"Kaaval Karangal"** unit has rescued 8,498 individuals.
- **Launch Date:** April 21, 2021.
- Ministry or Nodal Agency: Chennai Metropolitan Police.
- The aim of the Kaval Karangal Scheme is to enhance public safety by rescuing and providing necessary assistance to vulnerable groups, specifically elderly people, women, children, and mentally ill individuals who are found wandering on the streets.
- This scheme ensures that these individuals receive the care and support they need, preventing them from facing potential dangers or exploitation.
- "Kaaval Karangal" operates round the clock through its helpline (94447 17100) to rescue abandoned, homeless, and missing individuals, with the support of NGOs, shelter homes, and hospitals.

Chief Minister Provides Rs. 2.15 Crores to Tamil Development Society

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister presented a cheque for Rs. 2.15 crores to M. Rajendran, Chairman of the Tamil Development Society, to ensure the organization's activities continue without interruption.

- The Tamil Development Society was established in 1946 by T.K. Avinashilingam Chettiar, who was then the Education Minister of Madras Province, with the primary objective of developing Tamil in all fields of knowledge.
- Subsequently, he announced the Encyclopedia Project, which was the noble goal of this organization, on Independence Day, August 15, 1947.
- A committee of scholars was formed under the leadership of A. Lakshmanaswamy to create the encyclopedia.
- Professors M. Varadarajan, R.P. Sethu Pillai, and others were members of this committee.
- So far, 60 books and encyclopedia CDs have been published through the Tamil Development Society.
- It was announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly last April that Rs. 2 crores would be provided as aid to help the Tamil Development Society undertake projects to integrate Tamil with Artificial Intelligence and continue its activities without interruption.

Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme

- The Kalaignar Kanavu Illam, a flagship rural housing scheme for the poor, is set to reach a major milestone with the completion of 1 lakh houses in the coming weeks.
- As of now, 81,811 houses have been completed.
- Launched in 2024-25, the scheme envisages the construction of one lakh houses annually.
- The main objective of the scheme is to make Tamil Nadu hut free by the end on 2030.
- However, the scheme is not new and was initially launched in 2010 under the name 'Kalaignar Veedu Vazhangum Thittam'.
- The construction of houses under the scheme will be integrated with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee and Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin.

Gingee Fort

- Gingee Fort has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is part of the Maratha Military Landscapes which includes 12 sites, with Gingee being the only one outside Maharashtra.
- Known as the "Troy of the East" for its strong fortifications and strategic importance.
- The nomination was submitted for the 2024–25 cycle.
- Located on three hillocks: Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri.
- Originally built by Ananta Kon of the Konar Dynasty in 1200 CE.
- Fortified further by his successor in 1240 CE, naming the northern hill Krishnagiri.
- Spanning from the 17th to 19th centuries CE, this extraordinary network of forts demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.
- It is associated with good governance, military strength, cultural pride, and emphasis on social welfare.
- It becoming India's 44th property to receive this recognition.
- Underwent further construction during the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Controlled by several powers over centuries:
  - Vijayanagara Nayaks
  - Marathas
  - Mughals
  - Nawabs
  - French
  - British
- Architectural & Cultural Features: Stepped well, Kalyana Mahal, Durbar hall, Cannon, Clock tower, Armoury, Elephant tank, Stable, Granary, Gymnasium, Venkataramana Temple, Sadathtulla Mosque
- Had two separate water supply systems (Nayaks and Nawab periods) enabling water to reach the topmost points of the fort.

Coconut farmers deploy climate sensors to explore alternative crops

- Coconut farmers in Pollachi region, Coimbatore district, have deployed real-time climate monitoring systems.
- This is the first-of-its-kind initiative in Tamil Nadu aimed at guiding future cropping decisions due to the threat of root wilt disease.
- The root wilt disease is severely affecting coconut cultivation.
- The initiative is aimed at generating consistent weather data to explore alternatives to coconut cultivation.
- The system, developed by Bengaluru-based Phytec, uses low-cost, solar-powered, sub-gigahertz sensors placed at one-kilometre intervals.
- The system records key environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, and solar radiation.

T.N.'s Naan Mudhalvan scheme

- VinFast has recruited 200 polytechnic students in Thoothukudi, trained under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme's skill development programme.
- The Tamil Nadu government introduced the Naan Mudhalvan programme in March 2022.
- It is a dedicated initiative to provide effective and comprehensive guidance to youth on career development and boost employability.
- The Tamil Nadu government further launched the Naan Mudhalvan Upskilling Platform to develop skills and provide dynamic information to college students on various courses and industry-specific skills.
- This programme assists Tamil Nadu students in getting training in their preferred field of interest.
- Department: Department of Higher Education.

Tribal Eco-Cultural Village – A living museum on tribal culture

- **Location**: Karachikorai, near Bhavanisagar, Erode district, Tamil Nadu.

Objectives:

- To educate tourists on wildlife-compatible tribal livelihoods.
- Preserve tribal culture and traditions.
- Economically empower tribal communities by:
- Creating markets for tribal artefacts.
- Promoting ethnic cuisine.
- Offering employment to artisans through performances of traditional dance and music.
- To economically empower tribal communities by creating a market for tribal artefacts.
- It was also intended to serve as a value-based eco-tourism destination for tourists from Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, and surrounding regions.
- Foundation lay: December 8, 2018.
- Funded by: State Innovation Fund (2018–19) with an allocation of Predictive model ₹7 crore.
- Developed by: Forest department.
- Planned to be completed by December 2019.
- Project Features (Planned): Model tribal houses, Tribal musical instruments, Traditional attire and antiques, Stone and wooden crafts, Sangam literature studio, Outdoor interpretation centre, Ponds and other natural features

Ungaludan Stalin programme

- Chief Minister is set to launch the Ungaludan Stalin programme during an official event in Chidambaram in Cuddalore district.
- 43 services from 13 departments would be offered in urban areas and 46 from 15 departments would be offered in rural areas under the programme.
- Mudhalvarin Mugavari programme was launched in 2021, Over 1.05 crore petitions had been received, and of these, 1.01 crore had been disposed of, as of June 30 this year.
- Under the Makkaludan Mudhalvar programme, launched in 2023, 9.05 lakh pleas were received in urban areas and 12.81 lakh were received in rural areas.

- Issues raised in about 95% of the petitions had been resolved
- Of the 10,000 Ungaludan Stalin camps, over 3,000 will be organised in urban areas and over 6,000 in rural areas.

Discovery of Ancient Ashram Inscriptions in Koogur

- 700-year-old ashram inscriptions have been discovered in Koogur, Pudukkottai district.
- Two ashram inscriptions (13th century script) revealing ancient administrative rights and one fragment inscription (14th century script style) which gives information about 'Thirunavasambanda Pillai's ashram" in the Siva Veerai kingdom were discovered.
- The third fragment inscription (15th Century), though lacking detailed information, clearly shows the word "Mullai.
- In Kunrandarkoyil, regions were divided based on hills as the foundation. In that manner, the area south of the hill is called Thenmalai Nadu. The inscription reveals that this was also called Thenkarai Nadu.
- In the Killanur area, shells of soft-bodied animals of the Kilinji type can still be seen in abundance. In that context, this inscription provides evidence that this village was called Kilinjalur in the 13th century based on the ancient symbols found here.
- Fewer than 100 ashram inscriptions have been recorded across Tamil Nadu.
- Among these, the majority of inscriptions have been recorded in Pudukkottai district.
- This inscription shares information about how the Koogur area, which was an ashram belonging to Kilinjalur Killanur Varangadhikar of Vadapanangkattu Nadu, was reclaimed by Thennudayal (also known as Thenkarai Nattu

Thenmalai Nadu Velan) who was originally from Kumaramangalam.

T.N. government sanctions ₹110 crore to strengthen cancer diagnosis, treatment

▪ ₹110.96 crore sanctioned over three years (2025–2028) to strengthen cancer diagnosis and treatment.

▪ The initiative will benefit 17 government institutions — 5 regional cancer hospitals and 12 tertiary care centres across Tamil Nadu.

▪ To improve early cancer detection and treatment capacity by upgrading medical equipment and increasing healthcare manpower.

▪ Rising cancer cases in Tamil Nadu are straining the public healthcare system, prompting this focused response.

▪ The five regional centres are the Institute of Non-Communicable Diseases, the Government Royapettah Hospital, and the government medical college hospitals in Coimbatore, Thanjavur, and Tirunelveli, and the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.

Excavations at Porpanaikottai

▪ The State Archaeology Department has completed the second season of excavations at Porpanaikottai, a Sangam-era site in Pudukottai district.

▪ The excavations had commenced on June 18, 2024.

▪ A total of 17 trenches were dug, and 1,982 antiquities were recovered.

▪ The artefacts included glass beads, hopscotch, glass bangles, carnelian beads, amethyst, agate, bone point tool, copper nails, ivory dice, terracotta wheels, grinding and rubbing stones, terracotta beads, and iron and copper objects.

▪ A torpedo jar and russet-coated ware were also found.

▪ Pieces of a gold ornament, an iron sword found broken into two pieces and a raw material of agate stone were also found.

Nimirnthu Nil initiative

▪ Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched Nimirnthu Nil initiative.

▪ It is an initiative for students in higher education institutions to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.

▪ Aim: Helping students from 2,000 higher education institutions annually, and will be implemented with an outlay of ₹19.57 crore over five years.

▪ It targets training 30.5 lakh students in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC)

▪ Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC) for deeptech innovations at the iTamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub in Anna University.

▪ It is funded by the government under the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives.

▪ The centre aims at establishing a State-wide hub to bridge the gap between academic institutions and research organisations, with start-ups and industries.

▪ TNTTFC will offer comprehensive support to end-to-end IP Management.

▪ This is to ensure that Tamil Nadu's leading IP and research ecosystem translates into economic and societal benefits.

▪ This will enable Tamil Nadu to compete at an international level in fields such as AI,

semiconductors, biotechnology, and clean energy.

Viceroys during Rajendra Chola Period

▪ Rajendra Chola inherited a vast empire from his father Raja Raja Chola and expanded its frontiers through military expeditions.

▪ He introduced the practice of appointing viceroys, drawn from the royal family, to govern the conquered regions.

▪ His sons were sent as viceroys to Madurai and the Kongu region.

A coin attributed to Rajendra calls him 'Sri Raja Rajendra'

▪ Two sets of coins are attributed to Rajendra.

▪ They bear the bow, tiger, and fish emblem.

▪ One reads, 'Sri Rajendra', and the other, 'Sri Gangaikonda Chola'.

▪ A separate set features a bow, tiger, and two fish, lamp stands, and the royal parasol.

▪ Below is the Nagari inscription, 'Sri Raja Rajendra'.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

▪ Rajendra Chola I launched a military expedition to the Gangetic plains, defeating several kings and chieftains.

▪ Celebrated his victory by assuming the title 'Gangaikonda Cholan' (the Chola who conquered the Ganga).

▪ Brought Ganga water to his capital; vanquished kings carried it on their heads to pour into the Chola Gangam (now Ponneri lake).

▪ Rajendra Chola I built a new capital, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, in present-day Ariyalur district.

▪ The capital was established around 1025 CE and remained so until the fall of the Chola dynasty in 1279 CE.

▪ It served as the political, commercial, and cultural centre of the Chola Empire for about 250 years.

Gangaikonda Cholisvaram (Gangaikonda Cholapuram) Temple

▪ Constructed by Rajendra Chola I as a tribute to his northern victory.

▪ Also called Brihadisvara Temple, it rivals the Rajarajeswaram in Thanjavur built by his father, Raja Raja Chola I.

▪ Listed by UNESCO as one of the Great Living Chola Temples.

▪ No direct inscription by Rajendra Chola I found in the temple; attribution known through inscriptions of his son Vira Rajendra.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

▪ Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district will host an event on July 27, 2025, to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of King Rajendra Chola I's conquest of the Gangetic plains.

▪ King Rajendra Chola I founded Gangaikonda Cholapuram after his northern conquest.

▪ It was the Chola capital for 250 years, located on the banks of the Kollidam River.

▪ A report from the 1855 Gazetteer of South India (quoted in The Colas by K.A. Nilakanta Sastri) compares Gangaikonda Cholapuram to the ruins of Babylon.

▪ Describes the area as having a large, richly crafted pagoda, surrounded by jungle and ruins resembling ancient mounds.

National Level Clean City: Chennai Gets 38th Position

▪ Chennai secured the 38th position in the list of India's cleanest cities.

▪ This ranking is within the category of municipal corporations with a population of over 10 lakh.

▪ The results of the cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan' conducted annually by the Central

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

▪ They also stated that Chennai has been awarded 6.822 points based on waste removal and segregated handling of collected waste.

▪ In Tamil Nadu, they reported that Coimbatore secured the 28th position, Madurai the 40th position, and Trichy the 49th position.

Marungur archaeological excavation

▪ Marungur, a village in Panruti taluk, Cuddalore district, lies near the Chidambaram-Kumbakonam Highway.

▪ Site is part of the ancient Naduvil Nadu (Central Territorial Division), flanked by the Thenpennai and Vada Vellar rivers.

▪ Came into the archaeological spotlight in 2010 with discovery of Tamil Brahmi-inscribed potsherds during road work.

▪ One of eight sites where the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) undertook excavation in 2024–25.

▪ **Techniques used**: UAV mapping and LiDAR scanning.

▪ **Site elevation**: 100 metres above sea level.

▪ 8 trenches excavated; mound composed mostly of laterite soil.

Discovery of:

▪ Two large terracotta storage containers (1.25m deep) with bone points and charcoal samples (for radiocarbon dating).

▪ Iron knife, conch shell cores, graffiti-bearing potsherds, and various types of ceramic ware.

▪ **95 antiquities, including:**

   • Terracotta toys, stone hopscotch pieces

   • Beads (glass, agate, carnelian, terracotta)

   • Copper (antimony rods, bangle fragments, coin of Raja Raja Chola I)

   • Iron implements and tools

▪ Two laterite stone circle structures identified.

▪ 10 urns excavated, placed within laterite bedrock cavities.

Artefacts found:

▪ Iron swords, red jasper beads, grave goods (pots of red, black-red, and red-slipped ware)

▪ Indicates continuous cultural occupation from the Iron Age to Early Historic Period.

▪ Proximity to ancient port cities Arikamedu and Poompuhar boosts its maritime-historical importance.

▪ **Future Excavation Sites (Proposed sites) (2025–26):**

   • Thelunganur, Adichanur, Manikkoltai, Nagapattinam

   • Keeladi, Vellalur, Karivalamvanthanallur, Pattanamarudur

e-Sakshya App

▪ Tamil Nadu Police to launch a new mobile app called e-Sakshya.

▪ Developed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for use by investigation officers.

▪ To collect audio-visual evidence, photographs of crime scenes, and witness records.

▪ Helps maintain the chain of custody and improve admissibility in court.

▪ Blockchain technology ensures data integrity and authenticity.

▪ Officers trained to use the app as per Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

Temples of Social Justice

▪ Recent political issues highlighting the 200-year-old legislative and social justice model on regulating secular aspects of religion, especially prevalent in South India.

▪ Legislative Evolution:

   • **1817**: The Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation was introduced by the East India Company to regulate religious endowments.

- **1858**: Queen Victoria's Proclamation promised minimal interference in religious affairs post-1857 Mutiny.
- Despite this, the British maintained control over secular aspects of temple affairs, especially in the Madras Presidency.

▪ **Justice Party & 1925 Law:**

- Justice Party (1920) introduced Bill No. 12 of 1922, leading to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act (1925).
- Allowed surplus temple funds to be used for secular purposes, like education.

▪ **The 1959 Act & Present Legal Framework:**

- Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 is the current law.
- Section 36: Permits use of surplus funds for welfare with approval.
- Section 66: Explicitly allows use for colleges/universities, with provision to teach Hindu religion or temple architecture.

▪ Temples, since Chola (970 AD) and Vijayanagara periods were centres for education and cultural activities.

▪ Inscriptions and mandapams show that temples were used for learning and public events.

▪ The Self-Respect Movement promoted temple access and reforms, including anti-caste measures.

▪ Government intervention enabled temple entry legislation (1936, 1947) and appointment of priests from backward classes.

▪ Tamil Nadu's model is seen as a pioneer in religious reform and social equity.

"Ungaludan Stalin" Scheme Website- Operating Entirely in Tamil

▪ An exclusive website (https://ungaludanstalin.tn.gov.in) has been created to provide details about the "Ungaludan Stalin"

scheme and information about camp locations. This website includes details about the services and schemes offered in both urban and rural areas under this initiative.

▪ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the "Ungaludan Stalin" scheme, which brings government services to doorsteps, in Chidambaram Municipality, Cuddalore district.

▪ In urban areas, 43 services are provided through 13 departments, and in rural areas, 46 services are offered through 75 departments.

▪ Under this scheme, government departments must respond to applications within 45 days.

▪ If not satisfied, an appeal can be made. A total of 10,000 camps are planned until November, with 1,738 camps in urban areas and 6,232 camps in rural areas.

▪ The website has crossed 4.5 lakh views within one week of its launch.

▪ Websites of the Tamil Nadu government and its public sector undertakings typically have both English and Tamil versions.

▪ However, the "Ungaludan Stalin" scheme website has been designed entirely in the Tamil language with the aim of reaching all sections of people.

▪ There is no use of the English language anywhere on the site.

Tamil Nadu Government's loan and cooperative initiatives

▪ ₹53,340 crore in crop loans disbursed to 66.24 lakh farmers in the last 4 years through cooperative societies.

▪ **Chief Minister's Pharmacies:**

- 1,000 pharmacies launched across Tamil Nadu.
- Offer 25% discount on generic, branded, and traditional medicines.

- The initiative aims at providing medicines at prices lower than those offered at cooperative, Amma, and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi pharmacies.
    - Launched on February 24, 2025

▪ Tamil Nadu praised by Central Government as best-performing state in the cooperative sector for ensuring loans, fair prices, and support to farmers.

World Police and Fire Games – 2025

▪ Tamil Nadu Police shone at the World Police and Fire Games 2025, held in Alabama, United States, from June 27 to July 6.

▪ Police officers from Tamil Nadu V. Dinesh, S. Arjun, B. Harikrishnan, V. Saranya, and K. Elavarsi, representing the All India Police Team, bagged 11 medals (three gold, four silver, and four bronze).

▪ In the age-category events, a team led by Superintendent of Police A. Myilvaganan won a total of 39 medals — 19 gold, 11 silver, and 9 bronze.

India's First Hornbill conservation centre at Anamalai

▪ India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation will be established at Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu.

▪ Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests has sanctioned ₹1 crore under the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund to establish the Centre.

▪ Ecological Importance of Hornbills

▪ Hornbills are called "farmers of the forest" due to their role as seed dispersers.

▪ They are keystone species, critical for forest regeneration.

▪ Face threats from deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and climate change.

- The Centre will focus on four hornbill species found in the Western Ghats:

▪ **Great Hornbill**
    - Malabar Grey Hornbill
    - Malabar Pied Hornbill
    - Indian Grey Hornbill

- Centre Activities: Habitat mapping, Nest monitoring, Scientific research, Climate impact assessment and Restoration by planting native trees (e.g., fig, canarium).

- Habitat Development: Native food trees for hornbills such as figs, nutmeg, and ebony will be cultivated in the conservation area.

▪ **Educational Programs:**

▪ Scholarships for local students involved in maintaining the center.

▪ Support for student research on hornbill species.

▪ Why Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)?
    - Rich ecological diversity
    - Existing conservation infrastructure
    - Proven record in endangered species protection (e.g., tigers, elephants).

▪ The initiative also places a strong emphasis on community participation (Nest adoption programmes, Scholarships for local students and Sustainable livelihoods (e.g., seed collection).

▪ The project will offer capacity-building programmes for forest staff and host awareness activities (field visits for school children and community outreach).

▪ **Collaborating Organisations with Tamil Nadu Forest Department:**
    - Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
    - Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF)
    - Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
    - IUCN Hornbill Specialist Group

- **Ongoing Tamil Nadu Wildlife Projects:**
- India's first Dugong Conservation Sanctuary
- Nilgiri Tahr Projectp
- Gharial Conservation Center

54th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court

- Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava was sworn in as the 54th Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- Article 217 – President of India appoints High Court judges after consulting with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the State.
- In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted.
- Consultation Process: High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.

Tamil Nadu's Endangered Species Conservation Initiative

- First-of-its-kind initiative: Tamil Nadu is the first Indian state to focus exclusively on endangered and critically endangered species through a dedicated fund.
- Fund Transfer to AIWC: The Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund (initially ₹5 crore) will be formally transferred to the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) to boost targeted recovery efforts.
- Unlike typical conservation efforts focusing on tigers and elephants, this initiative will include lesser-known endangered species.
- The endangered species fund is part of a larger ₹50 crore rolling pool for conservation.
- **Target Species:**
    - Purple frog, Nilgiris wart frog, and Anamalai flying frog (all endemic and critically endangered).
    - Pangolins, the most trafficked mammal globally, also on the priority list.

₹12-cr. Project to Develop Chola Gangam lake

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a ₹12 crore project to develop Chola Gangam Lake (also known as Ponneri) in commemoration of Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary on July 23.
- The development activities to be undertaken by the Tourism Department.
- Chola Gangam Lake was originally dug by Rajendra Chola I to commemorate his northern military campaign.
- The Tamil Nadu government has celebrated Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary on Aadi Thiruvathirai every year since 2021.
- A Chola museum (south of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple on the Trichy-Chidambaram highway) is also under development over 10 acres, with a budget of ₹22.10 crore.

T.N. ranks second in per capita Net State Domestic Product

- Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP).
- The data was published by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- India's per capita net national income (NNI) at constant prices for 2024–25: ₹1,14,710
- Tamil Nadu's per capita NSDP for the same period: ₹1,96,309.
- Tamil Nadu attributes this economic achievement to the welfare programmes and efficient governance initiated since 2021.

Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, a research scholar has documented around **450 species of moths** at the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Moths act as **pollinators.**
- **Moth Night Event** conducted at Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary during **National Moth Week 2025** (from July 19 to July 27), showcasing moth diversity.

About Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location**: It is located in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
- It lies near India's southernmost tip, where the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean meet.
- The sanctuary is bounded at North by KalakkadMundanthurai Tiger Reserve, South by Kodayar left bank channel and Thovalai channel and in West by Kerala State.
- Rivers: Seven rivers have their origin in this forest including the famous Pahrali and Thamirabarani rivers.

TN to host one of five carbon capture testbeds for cement industry

- Tamil Nadu selected as one of five locations in India to host a Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) testbed.
- It will be set up at Ultratech Cement's Reddipalayam plant in Ariyalur district.
- **Aim**: To reduce CO_2 emissions from the cement industry, which contributes 7–8% of India's industrial carbon emissions.
- Supported by IIT Madras and BITS Pilani (Goa campus).
- Part of a national programme by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to validate and demonstrate CCU technologies.
- Marks progress towards India's net-zero emissions target by 2070.
- Financial support for the projects is being processed by DST.
- CO_2 may be converted into value-added products like: Synthetic fuels, Urea, Soda ash, Concrete aggregates, Food-grade CO_2.

- Chief Minister's Trophy Sports Competitions
- The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority, on behalf of Chennai district, has announced that various new sports have been added to the Chief Minister's Trophy sports competitions for 2025-2026.
- The competitions will be held from August 22 to September 12, 2025, with participation from both genders across five categories: school students, college students, differently-abled individuals, general public, and government employees.

Tamil Nadu Government Must Implement Forest Rights Act

- Political parties are urging the Tamil Nadu government to implement the Forest Rights Act of 2006. Despite a court order stating that people should not be evicted from mango groves until 2028, the government has reportedly evicted them.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 (officially known as the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)** Act) is a crucial legislation aimed at recognizing and protecting the rights of communities living in forest areas in India.

Key Objectives:

- **Rights Recognition:** Acknowledging the historical rights of Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) living in forest areas who depend on forests for their livelihood.
- **Livelihood Protection:** Ensuring sustainable use of forest resources by local communities
- **Community Empowerment:** Granting legal rights over forest land and resources to these communities

Agaramuthali Iyakkagam

- The Agaramuthali Iyakkagam has announced that articles can be submitted for the Dictionary Research Journal.

- **November 8th is celebrated annually as Tamil Lexicography Day** to honor Veera Mamuniver, who is revered as the father of Tamil lexicography.

- Research articles are typically published in a Dictionary Research Journal on this day.

- Applications are being accepted for awards including the Devaneyap Pavaanar and Veera Mamuniver awards given by the Classical Tamil Etymology Agaramuthali Iyakkagam .

Keeladi Excavation Report

- DMK Parliamentary Group leader and Thoothukudi constituency MP **Kanimozhi emphasized in the Lok Sabha** that the Keeladi excavation report should be released immediately.

- She brought this matter to the attention of the house under **Rule 377** regarding delays in publishing the Keeladi excavation research report.

Rule 377 of the Indian Parliament

- It allows Lok Sabha members to raise questions on urgent matters of importance not covered in other parliamentary procedures.

About Keeladi

- Since 2018, the **Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department** has undertaken this work and has discovered over 15,000 artifacts.

- Keeladi has been proven to be a prosperous urban civilization dating back to the 6th century BCE.

- A comprehensive report on the first two phases of excavations was submitted to the Archaeological Survey of India by archaeologist Amarnath in January 2023.

Medical Testing Quality Assurance Laboratory

- The **Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare** inaugurated a specialized laboratory established for quality assurance of public health sector laboratories and the tests conducted in them.

- A **quality assurance laboratory has been created to conduct quality assurance** tests for all laboratories operating under the Tamil Nadu Medical Department.

- In the first phase, primary health center laboratories in **Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts** will be quality assured to obtain international quality certification.

- From **next year**, this program will be **expanded across the entire state.**

- This laboratory will also conduct quality testing at very low cost for government and private laboratories operating in other states.

- Additionally, **memoranda of understanding** have been made with voluntary organizations for:

  - Early detection of infectious diseases caused by climate change
  - Studying microorganisms in wastewater to predict disease spread
  - Prevention measures for dengue, malaria, and chikungunya

- An agreement has also been made with DON SAM organization under the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation to provide safe drinking water by detecting chlorine levels in water using artificial intelligence.

'TN SPARK' New Program for Classes 6-9 Students

- In line with emerging science and technology, a curriculum has been prepared and teacher training will be provided to teach students computer-based basic science, **artificial intelligence capabilities, and technological science under the name "Tamil Nadu School Programme for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Knowledge of Online Tools".**

- Through this program, **curriculum and textbooks** have been developed based on four core themes:
    - **Basic computer science education, Online platform tools , Coding, AI**

- At the ceremony, the Deputy Chief Minister released books prepared under the **THIRAN (Targeted Help for Improving Remediation & Academic Nurturing)** movement and TN SPARK curriculum books.

Khelo India Centers

- Tamil Nadu has **38 Khelo India Centers across 37 districts.**

- KICs are district-level sports training centers established under the Khelo India scheme.

- They aim to provide sports training and coaching to children and youth.

Mangrove Restoration in Tamil Nadu

- Mangrove saplings were planted by Environment and Climate Change Minister at the Adyar estuary, Chennai, ahead of World Mangrove Day (July 26).

Mangrove Restoration Scheme (2023–2026)

- Launched: February 2023.

- Budget: ₹25 crore.

- Duration: 3 years (up to 2026).

- Coverage: Targets 10 districts, includes both forest and revenue lands

Scale of Restoration Efforts (Since 2022)

- Total Area Revived: Over 2,900 hectares of mangroves.

- Targeted Area: Across 9 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

- Goal: Reduce effects of cyclones, tidal surges, erosion, and to support biodiversity and local livelihoods.

- Bio-shield plantations using trees such as casuarina, palmyrah, and cashew have been introduced to protect against wind and wave action.

- Rare Species Reintroduced: Sonneratia apetala, Xylocarpus granatum, Kandelia candel.

New Quality Assurance Lab for Government Health Facilities – Tamil Nadu

- **Objective**: To ensure the quality of diagnostic tests conducted at government-run labs across Tamil Nadu.

- **Location**: Established at State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL), under the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine, Chennai.

- Pilot Project (DPH-EQAS) (External Quality Assurance Scheme)
    - This Programme is being rolled out at 116 PHC laboratories in Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts.
    - Mobile App: Launched to upload lab results.

NATIONAL - NEWS

DRDO Tests Indigenous Communication Systems

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted field trials of two advanced communication systems.

- The Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL) in Dehradun executed these trials in Joshimath, Uttarakhand. This initiative signifies a strong commitment to indigenous technologies that boost national security.

- The two systems tested are the Software Defined Radio (SDR) Manpack and the Compact Transhorizon Communication System (CTCS).

- Both systems are designed to improve communication capabilities in challenging environments

Skin bank

- The first skin bank in Kerala is ready at the Government Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram.

- A skin bank is a facility where skin is taken from an eligible donor, and processed, and stored under appropriate temperature for up to five years.

- Skin from a deceased person can be donated within six hours after death.

- Anyone can donate skin, irrespective of sex and blood group. The donor's minimum age should be 18 years.

- In India, Indian Army's Skin Bank was launched to help treat severe skin burn injuries and other skin-related conditions for service personnel and their families.

- The first-of-its-kind facility established in the Armed Forces Medical Services is staffed with trained medical professionals, including plastic surgeons, tissue engineers, and specialised technicians.

- India's first skin bank was established in Mumbai at the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital in 1978.

- In August 2016, the first skin bank under the government in Tamil Nadu was opened at the Government Stanley Hospital in Chennai.

India's first co-operative university

- Union Minister of Cooperation and Home Affairs laid the foundation stone for India's first national cooperative university.

- The university will offer specialised courses in cooperative management, finance, law, and rural development.

- The university has been named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, a pioneer of the cooperative movement in India and a key figure behind the foundation of Amul.

- The cooperative movement that began in 1946 under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's guidance has now grown into a ₹80,000 crore enterprise involving 36 lakh women.

Fourth foundation day celebrations of Ministry of Cooperation

- Cooperatives Minister introduces five-point road map for cooperative growth on the fourth foundation day celebrations of Ministry of Cooperatives.

- Cooperative Ministry – Established in 2021.

- **A five-point road map for cooperative growth**

- People, meaning every initiative must benefit ordinary Indians.

- PACS, strengthening our primary cooperative networks.

- Platforms, meaning digital infrastructure.

- Policy reforms

- Prosperity, not just for individuals but for entire communities, especially our farmers and labourers.

Plan to manufacture 15 Amrit Bharat trains at ICF factory within current financial year

- ICF factory is planned to complete manufacturing 15 Amrit Bharat trains within this financial year.

- Efforts were made to manufacture Amrit Bharat trains (regular Vande Bharat trains) - non-AC Amrit Bharat trains with common facilities for long-distance travel.

- Accordingly, 2 Amrit Bharat trains were manufactured and handed over to the Railway Board in November 2023.

- This 22-coach train includes non-AC seating compartments and sleeping berth compartments.

About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- ABSS, introduced by the Ministry of Railways in December 2022, aims to redevelop 1,309 railway stations into modern integrated transport hubs across India.

- It is also aimed at integrating regional architecture, enhancing passenger amenities, promoting inclusivity, and supporting urban development.

- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of railways.

International Manuscript Heritage Conference

- India will host the first international Manuscript Heritage Conference in September, which will be attended by global scholars, thought leaders, and cultural custodians.

- The three-day conference, titled "Reclaiming India's knowledge legacy through manuscript heritage", is being organised from September 11 to 13 in the national capital as part of the launch of the **"Gyan Bharatam Mission"s.**

- The conference will also commemorate Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address (September 11, 1893), symbolising India's intellectual and spiritual global vision.

- There will be numerous side events such as an exhibition on Indian manuscripts, one on manuscripts inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World, live demonstrations, and workshops.

Maratha fort systems get UNESCO heritage tag

- Maratha Military Landscapes of India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris.

- Its 12 components are — Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

- Built mostly between the 1600s and 1800s, they show how Marathas used military skills to build powerful defense structures.

- There are more than 390 forts in Maharashtra out of which only 12 forts are selected under the Maratha Military Landscapes of India, of these 8 forts are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

- In the Maratha Military Landscapes of India Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Raigad, Rajgad and Gingee Fort are hill forts, Pratapgad is a hill-forest fort, Panhala is a hill-plateau fort, Vijaydurg is coastal fort whereas Khanderi fort, Suvarnadurg and Sindhudurg are island forts.

- The Maratha Military ideology originated in the 17th century under the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1670 CE, extending through subsequent rulers until the Peshwa rule concluded in 1818 CE.

Godavari–Cauvery river interlinking project

- The Godavari–Cauvery river interlinking project aims to utilize unutilised water from the Godavari River.

- The link has three components:

- Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link

- Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link

- Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link

- Tamil Nadu: Major beneficiary of the project.

- Nodal Agency for the project: National Water Development Agencey (NWDA).

Indus Waters Treaty

- Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated that they will approach international organizations to receive water from India under the Indus Waters Treaty.

- Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the World Bank.

- According to the agreement,

  - India has control over the eastern rivers – Ravi, Beas and Sutlej

  - Pakistan gets the water from the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

National Sample Survey (NSS)

- The National Sample Survey (NSS) is in the news due to the celebration of 75 years of its establishment during the 19th National Statistics Day.

- The National Sample Survey (NSS) is a nation-wide, large-scale socio-economic data collection program conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- It serves as the principal data source for policy planning, development programs, and research in India.

- The NSS was launched in 1950, inspired by the vision of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, to provide reliable, timely, and comparable socio-economic statistics through sample surveys.

India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

- Gujarat has launched India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to improve tribal healthcare.

- It will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts in the State.

- The initiative will focus on early detection and targeted treatment of genetic disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, thalassaemia, and certain hereditary cancers.

- The genetic data collected will also be used to identify markers related to natural immunity and support the development of personalised healthcare solutions.

India's Clean Energy Progress

- As of June 30, 2025, 50% of India's installed electricity capacity (out of 484 GW) comes from non-fossil fuel sources.

- Achieved 5 years ahead of target set under India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

- However, actual electricity supplied from clean energy sources is still below 30% (28% between April 2024–May 2025).

- Despite 50% installed capacity, only 28% of actual electricity generation (April 2024 – May 2025) came from clean energy.

- In 2014-15, clean energy contributed 17% to actual electricity generation.

- The "capacity utilisation factor" (CUF) - A measure of how much available energy was usable.

- Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal's 60% or nuclear's 80%.

World's First Rain Museum

- The world's first Rain Museum is being built in Mawsynram, Meghalaya, known as the wettest place on Earth.

- The ₹35 crore project aims to celebrate the region's unique relationship with rain and its impact on local culture, traditions, and ecology.

- The museum will feature interactive exhibits, live rain simulations, and cultural installations, offering a blend of science, art, and local culture.

44th Foundation Day celebrations of NABARD

- The 44th Foundation Day of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was celebrated in Chennai.

- Announced collaboration between MSSRF and NABARD on the 'Climate Smart Village' initiative.

- This Pilot project launched in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai districts, Tamil Nadu.

- **Goals**:

  - Improve climate resilience for farmers and fishermen.

  - Deal with weather fluctuations due to climate change. Focus on optimal use of natural resources.

  - Encourage long-term planning in agricultural practices.

- Funds of over ₹50,000 crore had been disbursed in Tamil Nadu in the financial year 2024-25 for building infrastructure and agricultural refinance.

- This was the highest quantum of funds disbursed by NABARD to any State in the country.

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards

- To ensure a level playing field and acknowledge consistent top performers like Indore (ranked No. 1 for 7 consecutive years), MoHUA introduced a new category- Super Swachh League (SSL) Cities.

- These SSL cities were excluded from regular rankings to promote fairness and encourage emerging cities.

- For the first time, city classification based on population was introduced, enabling fair comparison and targeted improvement across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
  - Cities were ranked in 5 categories:
  - Very Small Cities (< 20,000)
  - Small Cities (20,000 – 50,000)
  - Medium Cities (50,000 – 3 lakh)
  - Big Cities (3 – 10 lakh)
  - Million Plus Cities (> 10 lakh)

National workshop on Jain Manuscriptology

- A National Workshop on Jain Manuscriptology was held at Gujarat University.

- Organised By: Ministry of Minority Affairs

- Held under the aegis of varsity's Department for Validation of Indic Knowledge through Advanced Research and funded by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).

- This is part of a larger vision under the PMJVK to uplift and empower all six notified minority communities — Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains — by supporting academic research and heritage conservation.

- A similar initiative is already under way in collaboration with Mumbai University to preserve the Avesta and Pahlavi languages of the Parsi Zoroastrian tradition.

NITI Aayog on Poverty Reduction

- 24 crore Indians were lifted out of multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23, according to NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery.

- The statement was made at an event organized by the Indian Embassy to the UN in New York.

- India is making progress in reducing maternal and child mortality, moving toward its health goals.

- India's progress has been made possible by a dual strategy: strong safety nets to protect the most vulnerable people and growth-supporting reforms.

Bank of India Celebrates 'Kisan Diwas'

- Bank of India (Chennai Zone) celebrated Kisan Diwas (Farmers' Day).

- The event aimed to encourage farmers, agri and food processing entrepreneurs, and women's self-help groups (SHGs).

- National Farmers' Day, observed on 23rd December, celebrates their invaluable contribution.

- This day marks the birth anniversary of Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister, renowned for his deep understanding of rural issues and unwavering advocacy for farmers' welfare.

GIFT City

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's first International Financial

Services Centre and flagship Smart City project in Gandhisnagar.

▪ **Objective**: To serve as a global financial and IT services hub, comparable to international centers like Dubai, Singapore, and London.

Key Features:

▪ Offers world-class infrastructure

▪ Single-window clearance system

▪ Liberal regulatory environment with tax benefits

▪ Hosts the IFSC Authority (IFSCA), India's unified regulator for international financial services.

Kashi Declaration

▪ The Youth Spiritual Summit concluded recently at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi with the formal adoption of the Kashi Declaration.

▪ Theme: "Drug-free Youth for Developed India".

▪ Organised by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

▪ Objective: Aim to build a drug-free society by 2047, blending spiritual strength with youthful energy.

Meri Panchayat App

▪ It Won the WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award (World Summit on the Information Society).

▪ Recognized internationally for promoting ICT-driven sustainable rural development goals (SDGs).

▪ A unified digital governance platform for rural India.

▪ Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) under MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and IT).

▪ Multilingual interface with support for 12+ Indian languages.

World Food India event

▪ The 4th edition of World Food India will be held from September 25 to 28, 2025 in New Delhi.

▪ Organised By: Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

▪ Objective:

▪ To showcase developments in the food processing sector.

▪ To promote the vision that at least one Indian food item should reach the dining tables of every home in the world.

Caste-wise Census in Karnataka

▪ Karnataka has planned to conduct a new **caste-wise census starting from September 22.**

▪ The objective of the caste-wise census is to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

▪ This caste-wise census will be conducted for **15 days from September 22 to October 7.**

▪ In 2015, the Kantharaj-led Backward Classes Commission had already conducted a caste-wise census with 54 questions, and this time additional questions will be added.

NATIONAL SCHEMES

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

▪ Context: The Union Social Justice Ministry is in the process of seeking additional allocation for administering the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme for marginalised students.

▪ National Overseas Scholarship Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate the low income students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education by studying abroad.

▪ The Scheme provides financial assistance to the selected candidates for pursuing Masters level courses and Ph.D. courses abroad in the Institutions/Universities accredited by the Government/an authorized body of that country in any fields of study.

▪ In each Selection Year, 125 fresh awards, subject to availability of funds, will be given under the Scheme.

▪ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

▪ 30% of the awards for each year are earmarked for women candidates.

Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

▪ The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1-lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme.

▪ It aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in RDI.

▪ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology to boost private sector investment in basic and applied research to drive the development of innovative technologies and products.

▪ The scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of private sector.

▪ It seeks to provide growth & risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

▪ Context: About 600 Eklavya school students cracked IIT-JEE, NEET exams.

▪ It is a flagship intervention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, to provide quality residential education to Scheduled Tribes students from Class 6th to 12th in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.

▪ The programme has been in operation since 1998 and was revamped during the year 2018-19 to expand the geographical outreach and enhance the quality of facilities.

▪ EMRSs will be set up in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

▪ The Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to provide benefits to the newly registered

employees with less than 1 lakh wages, and employers.

▪ It will support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

▪ The ELI Scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of PM's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 Crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 Lakh Crore.

▪ It aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

▪ Objective: Boost agricultural productivity and promote sustainable agricultural practices

▪ The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26.

▪ The Centre had merged 36 schemes of 11 Ministries into the PMDDKY, which will have an outlay of ₹24,000 crore per year for six years beginning 2025-26.

▪ This scheme will help 1.7 crore farmers.

▪ The scheme aims at augmenting post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improving irrigation facilities, and facilitating availability of long-term and short-term credit.

▪ The scheme will be implemented through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 departments, other State schemes, and local partnerships with the private sector.

▪ 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement.

▪ The scheme would benefit at least one district in each State.

▪ The number of districts in each State/Union Territory will be based on the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings.

▪ However, a minimum of one district will be selected from each State.

▪ The scheme is modelled on the "Aspirational District Programme" of the Centre.

▪ The "first-of-its-kind" scheme would focus exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.

Skill India Mission

▪ The Skill India Mission launched on 15th July 2015 (World Youth Skills Day) has completed 10 years in 2025, marking a decade of efforts to empower India's youth with job-ready skills.

▪ The scheme is designed to skill, reskill, and upskill India's youth by offering industry-relevant training through a vast network of centers and programs, addressing the increasing demand for employability, entrepreneurship, and quality job opportunities.

▪ In February 2025, the restructured Skill India Mission was approved for 2022-23 to 2025-26, merging Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme into a single Central Sector Scheme.

▪ All the courses and certifications under the Skill India Program are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and integrated with DigiLocker & National Credit Framework (NCrF).

SASCI Scheme

- SASCI - Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale.
- Launched by: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in.

Objective:

- Transform iconic Indian tourist sites into world-class destinations by 2026.
- Enhance tourist experience, global competitiveness, and attract investment.
- Centrally Funded: Financial assistance by Centre; execution by States.
- Project Timeline: Must be completed within 24 months from approval.
- Encourages cooperative federalism by empowering State-led tourism innovation.
- Integrated into India's global and domestic tourism campaigns.

PM-Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

- Launched By: Union Government; announced in Union Budget.
- Implemented By: EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation).
- **Objective**
  - Incentivize employment generation.
  - Create over 3.5 crore jobs in two years.
  - Benefits for Employees
  - First-time employees will get one month's wage up to ₹15,000.
- **Benefits for Employers**
  - Incentives for 2 years for creating additional employment.
  - Extended benefits for another 2 years for the manufacturing sector.

- Benefits of scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- The Central Government has provided toilet facilities to 95.1% of rural households.
- This scheme, launched in 2019, aimed to provide household tap connections to all rural households in the country by 2024 to supply 55 liters of drinking water per person daily.
- Primary Ministry: Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Funding: Central Government funding scheme

100-Day Employment Scheme Fund Release

- The funds released for the 100-day employment scheme have continuously declined over the past 5 years.

MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is one of the world's largest job guarantee schemes launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2005.
- The primary objective of this scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment per financial year to any adult member of rural households willing to do unskilled manual work in public works.
- As of 2022-23, there are 15.4 crore workers under this scheme.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- This scheme was launched by the Railway Ministry in December 2022.
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a long-term plan for the gradual upgradation of railway stations across India.

REPORTS & INDICES

Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development Rashtriya Sarvekshen (PARAKH RS) Survey

▪ Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development Rashtriya Sarvekshen (PARAKH RS), formerly National Achievement Survey (NAS).

▪ Countrywide survey reveals deficits in student learning.

Archaeological excavations proposed during 2025-26 excavation season
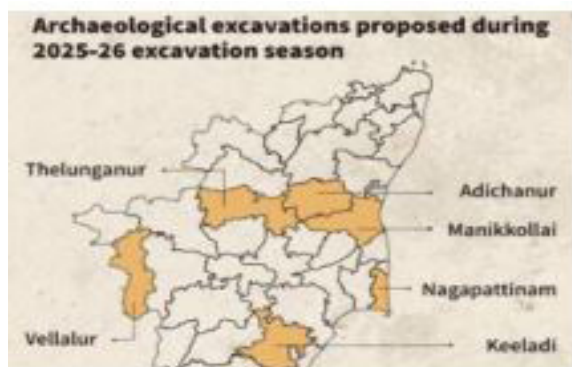
▪ It has revealed that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chandigarh are the best performing States and Union Territories in school education.

▪ PARAKH RS assessed the performance of 21,15,022 children in Grades 3, 6, and 9 from 74,229 schools across 781 districts in the country.

▪ The assessment covered language and mathematics (for Grades 3, 6, and 9), 'the World around us' (for Grades 3 and 6), and science and social science (for Grade 9).

▪ According to the survey, only 31% could explore and understand sets of numbers, such as whole numbers, fractions, integers, rational numbers, and real numbers, and their properties.

2nd Edition of the NER District SDG Index

▪ NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) has launched the 2nd edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index for 2023-24.

▪ First edition launched in 2021.

▪ The NER District SDG Index is a composite tool designed to monitor district-level progress on selected SDG indicators.

▪ Developed collaboratively by NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER), and with technical support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

▪ Mizoram has the highest-scoring district in the entire NER (Hnahthial at 81.43) and Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest-scoring district in the entire region (Longding at 58.71).

▪ All districts in Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have achieved Front Runner status, with no districts falling in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.

Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks" report

▪ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), in a report, highlighted that digital platforms—including online payments, VPNs, social media, and e-commerce—were misused in the Pulwama (2019) and Gorakhnath Temple (2022) terror attacks.

- The report, titled 'Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks', serves as a global alert on the evolving and increasingly complex methods of terrorist financing.

- FATF is an intergovernmental policy-making body established in 1989 at the G7 Summit in Paris.

- Its primary objective is to develop policies to combat money laundering (ML), terrorist financing (TF), and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

- Headquarters – FATF is headquartered in Paris, France, and functions out of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) headquarters.

- FATF comprises 39 members(Including European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council).

- India became a full member of the FATF in 2010.

Global Gender Gap Index 2025

- The World Economic Forum has recently published the Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

- India has slipped to the 131st position out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2025, a fall of two places compared to its 129th rank in 2024.

- Published annually since 2006, it is the longest-standing global index for assessing gender equality, measuring countries' progress in closing gender gaps across 4 key dimensions:

  • Economic Participation and Opportunity

  • Educational Attainment

  • Health & Survival

  • Political Empowerment

- Each dimension is scored on a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 represents full gender parity and 0 denotes complete inequality.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its 7th Frontiers report

- It warns of growing threats from extreme heat and toxic pollution to the world's ageing population.

- The report marks how climate change and environmental hazards increasingly endanger older adults, especially in urban and low- to middle-income regions.

- Heat-related deaths among people aged 65 and above have surged by 85% since the 1990s.

- If global temperatures rise by 2°C, deaths could increase by 370% by 2050.

Periodic Labour Force Survey

- Released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation.

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women dropped in both rural (from 36.9% to 35.2%) and urban areas (from 25.3% to 25%) in June.

- National LFPR for people aged 15+ fell from 54.8% in May to 54.2% in June, attributed to seasonal agricultural shifts and intense summer heat.

- The overall unemployment rate for female and male of all ages above 15 remained at 5.6% in June, with a slight decline for females (by 0.1%) and no change for males.

- Share of rural women in agriculture fell from 70.2% in May to 69.8% in June, indicating

less agricultural engagement, possibly due to declining rural inflation.

▪ For men aged 15+, LFPR slightly declined in rural (78.3% to 78.1%) and urban (75.1% to 75%) areas.

Best Cities for Students: Chennai Ranks 128th

▪ Chennai has moved up 12 places to rank 128th in the QS list of best cities for students wishing to study abroad.

▪ The ranking is published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global higher education analysis institute based in London, UK.

▪ Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is ranked 1st, overtaking London.

▪ London, which topped the list for 6 consecutive years, has dropped to 3rd place.

▪ Other Indian cities' rankings:

▪ Mumbai: Up 15 places to 98th

▪ Delhi: Up 7 places to 104th

▪ Bangalore: Up 22 places to 108th

'Swachh Survekshan' cleanliness survey

▪ Introduced to promote new cities in cleanliness rankings

▪ Million-plus cities (Population > 10 lakh)

▪ 1st – Ahmedabad, Gujarat (Cleanest Million-Plus City)

▪ 2nd – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

▪ 3rd – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

▪ 3 to 10 lakh population category

▪ 1st – Mira-Bhayandar, Maharashtra

▪ 2nd – Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh

▪ 3rd – Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

▪ Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Vijayawada entered the newly introduced 'Super Swachh League', which recognises sustained excellence in cleanliness among cities, in the "million-plus population" category.

▪ A total of 23 cities were inducted into this league, with Noida, Chandigarh, and Mysore, among others, entering the "3 lakh to 10 lakh population" category.

▪ New Delhi made the cut in the "50,000 to 3 lakh population" category.

▪ The award for the 'Best Ganga Town' went to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

▪ Secunderabad Cantonment in Telangana was named the Cleanest Cantonment Board.

▪ Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) were declared 'Best Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar' for their commitment to the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.

"Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" – World Bank

▪ The report titled "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" was released by the World Bank in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

▪ Indian cities are projected to contribute 70% of new jobs by 2030.

▪ Urban population expected to double to 951 million by 2050.

▪ Over 144 million new homes will be needed by 2070.

- Heat waves and urban heat island effects are raising temperatures by 3–4°C in city centres compared to surrounding areas.
- Rapid urbanization is reducing cities' ability to absorb storm water, increasing flood risk.
- The report examined 24 Indian cities, with a special focus on:Chennai, Indore, New Delhi, Lucknow, Surat and Thiruvananthapuram.
- With over 50% of 2050's urban infrastructure yet to be built, India has a critical opportunity to develop resilient, green urban infrastructure.

Groundwater Overexploitation in Tamil Nadu – Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) Report

- Tamil Nadu: One of the worst-affected states in groundwater overuse.

- 106 out of 313 groundwater assessment units classified as overexploited.
- Nationally, 33.87% of total units are overexploited.
- CGWA invoked Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: Urged all states to impose environmental compensation.
- District-wise Alarming Data (Overexploited Units / Total Units)
  - Tirupattur: 4/4 → 100%
  - Salem: 13/14 → 92.86%
  - Vellore: 5/6 → 83.33%
  - Chennai: 13/16 → 81.25%
  - Mayiladuthurai: 3/4 → 75%
  - Dindigul: 7/10 → 70%
  - Coimbatore: 7/11 → 63.64%

AWARDS & HONOURS

"Swachh Survekshan 2024-25" awards

- Uttar Pradesh government, Prayagraj Mela Authority & Municipal Corporation were recognized for exceptional urban waste management during Maha Kumbh 2024.
- Maha Kumbh- the world's largest religious congregation, which witnessed a footfall of 66 crore.

K.M. Kader Mohideen receives 'Thakasal Tamilar' Award

- K.M. Kader Mohideen, leader of the Indian Union Muslim League, has been selected for

this year's '**Thakasal Tamilar'** (Distinguished Tamil) award by the Tamil Nadu government.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister will present him with a cheque for Rs. 10 lakhs and a certificate of appreciation during the Independence Day celebrations.
- The 'Thakasal Tamilar' award has been given since 2021.
- Over the past 4 years, this award has been presented to Sankarayya, Nallakkannu, K.Veeramani, and Kumari Ananthan.
- K.M. Kader Mohideen is the editor of '**Manissudar'** magazine and has worked throughout his life for social harmony.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctor's Day 2025

- National Doctor's Day 2025 is observed on **July 1 to** honour doctors and healthcare professionals across India.

- **The theme for 2025** - "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?".

- **National Doctor's Day** was officially established in 1991 by the Government of India to honour the legacy of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,** one of the most prominent figures in Indian medical history.

- His commitment to both medicine and public service earned him the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

19th National Statistics Day 2025

- **Every year on 29th June**, India celebrates **National Statistics Day** to mark the birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, a pioneer in the field of modern statistics in India.

- The theme for National Statistics Day 2025 was 75 years of National Sample Survey.

International Day of Cooperatives 2025

- The International Day of Cooperatives is observed every year on the first Saturday of July.

- It brings attention to the important work done by cooperatives across the globe.

- This year's theme is **"Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World".**

World Rural Development Day 2025

- The UN General Assembly declared July 6 as World Rural Development Day to show its commitment to the 2030 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

- This move focuses on helping those living in rural areas—especially women, youth, and Indigenous communities—who often suffer the most from poverty, hunger, and lack of services.

- The theme for 2025 - **"Rural Empowerment - Global Impact".**

World Population Day – July 11

- World Population Day, observed annually on July 11, is more than a reminder of the rising global headcount.

- **Founded by**: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- **First observed**: July 11, 1989

- **2025 Theme**: 'Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world.'

AI Appreciation Day

- India is observing AI Appreciation Day on July 16 to recognize its growing contributions in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

- The celebration highlights AI's impact across key sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and industry.

Tamil Nadu Day 2025

- "Tamil Nadu Day" is celebrated in Tamil Nadu on July 18.

- While it was announced that Tamil Nadu Day would be celebrated on November 1 in 2019, it was changed to July 18 in 2021.

- The then Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai renamed Madras State as "Tamil Nadu" in 1967.

National Flag Day/ Tiranga Adoption Day

- Date Observed: July 22 every year.
- Occasion: Marks the day in 1947 when the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Indian National Flag.
- Symbolism: The Tiranga (tricolour) is a powerful symbol of national pride, freedom, and unity.
- This year's theme "One Nation, One Flag: United in Sacrifice, Committed to Peace".

Income Tax Day – July 24

- Observed on: July 24 annually
- Theme: Responsible Taxation. Resilient Nation.
- Commemorates: Introduction of Income Tax in India in 1860 by Sir James Wilson during the British Raj.
- Symbolizes India's fiscal growth, voluntary tax compliance, transparency, and digital transformation in taxation.
- **Historical Milestones:**
  - 1860: Income tax introduced to finance British war expenses.
  - 1922: Income-tax Act enacted – formalized the tax structure.
  - 1924: Central Board of Revenue Act established statutory tax administration.
  - 1961: Income Tax Act, 1961 came into existence.
- **Digital Advancements**
  - 1981: Start of computerization of income tax processes.
  - 2009: Launch of Centralized Processing Centre (CPC) for efficient and jurisdiction-free return processing.
  - 2020: Introduction of the 'Vivid se Vishwas' scheme to reduce litigations and generate government revenues.

World Mangrove Day

- Celebrated annually on July 26.
- Declared by UNESCO in 2015 during its General Conference.
- Theme - "Protect Wetlands for Our Future."
- Ecological Importance of Mangroves:
- Act as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and tsunamis.
- Serve as carbon sinks, helping combat climate change.
- Provide habitats and breeding grounds for numerous marine species.
- Help stabilize shorelines with their complex root systems.

World Youth Skills Day

- World Youth Skills Day, declared by the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) in 2014, is celebrated annually on 15th July to emphasise the strategic importance of skilling youth.
- The 2025 theme focuses on empowering youth through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital skills.

DEFENCE

INS Tamal

▪ The missile-carrying warship 'INS Tamal', manufactured in Russia for the Indian Navy, was commissioned to the country from Kaliningrad, a coastal city in Russia.

▪ This 125-meter-long, 3,900-ton warship was built using the best practices of warship construction with Indian and Russian advanced technologies.

▪ 26 percent of the technology, capabilities, and equipment in this ship, including the ability to carry the long-range 'BrahMos' missile capable of targeting both sea and land targets, have been upgraded in India.

▪ This is the 8th **'Krivak'** class warship to join the Indian Navy from Russia in the last 20 years.

▪ 2 warships are being manufactured at the Goa Shipyard in India with Russian technical assistance.

▪ Under this project, the Indian Navy will have 10 ships operational in 4 different categories including **'Tushil', 'Talwar'**, and 'Teg' with similar capabilities and equipment, weapons, and sensor systems with common characteristics.

INS Udayagiri

▪ The second ship **'Udayagiri'** of the **'Nilgiri'** class (P17A) warship was handed over to the Navy.

▪ The P17A warships equipped with advanced weapons and sensor technology are 4.54 percent larger compared to the previous P17 warships.

▪ Moreover, they are capable of operating in deep seas to counter threats to India's maritime interests.

▪ It was announced that a total of 7 P17A warships will be manufactured at Mumbai's **'Mazagon'** and Kolkata's 'Garden Reach' shipbuilding companies.

Shakti exercise

▪ The eighth edition of the Indo-French Army exercise, 'Shakti 2025', concluded in France

▪ The exercise involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the French Army, the Foreign Legion, the French Air and Space Force, and the French Navy.

▪ The Indian contingent of 90 personnel comprised a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, besides personnel from other services.

Nistar

▪ Recently, the **'Nistar'** vessel was delivered by Hindustan Shipyard Limited to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.

▪ It is the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel.

▪ The ship's name, **'Nistar'**, originates from Sanskrit and means liberation, rescue or salvation

▪ The ship is highly specialised and can undertake Deep Sea Diving and Rescue Operations – a capability with select Navies across the globe.

- The ship, measuring 118 m with a tonnage of nearly 10,000 tons, is installed with state-of-the-art Diving Equipment and has the capability to undertake Deep Sea Saturation Diving up to 300 m depth.

Talisman Sabre 2025

- Talisman Sabre 2025 is the largest and most complex warfighting exercise held in Australia.
- It began on 13 July 2025 and involves 35,000 military personnel from 19 nations.
- The event is led by Australia and includes India among other key partners.
- For the first time, parts of the exercise are conducted outside Australia, in Papua New Guinea.

Akash Prime

- The Indian Army successfully tested the Akash Prime air defence system in eastern Ladakh.
- Akash Prime will form part of the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defence system in the Army.

- Akash is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, indigenously developed.
- Prithvi-II and Agni-I are Short-range ballistic missiles.

DRDO Successfully Tests Air-to-Ground Missile via Drone

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed the ULPGM-V3 missile that can strike ground targets from the air via drone.
- The production of this missile has been handed over to Adani and Bharat Dynamics companies.
- Three types of missiles - V1, V2, and V3 - have been developed in this category.
- These differ in guidance, operation, and strike range capabilities.
- DRDO successfully tested this missile at the open-air testing centre in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

SPORTS & GAMES

National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

▪ The new policy supersedes the existing National Sports Policy, 2001, and lays out a visionary and strategic roadmap to establish India as a global sporting powerhouse and a strong contender for excellence at international sporting events, including the 2036 Olympic Games.

Key pillars

- Excellence on the Global Stage
- Sports for Economic Development
- Sports for Social Development
- Sports as a People's Movement
- Integration with Education (NEP 2020)

Digital India Program: Completes 10 Years

▪ The Digital India program has completed 10 years and has transformed into a people's movement.

▪ The Digital India program was launched on July 1, 2015.

▪ India's 5G program is one of the fastest programs in the world. Under this program, 4.81 lakh base stations have been established in 2 years.

▪ The platforms under India's digital infrastructure - Aadhaar, Co-WIN, DigiLocker, FastTag, PM WANI, One Nation One Subscription - are now being studied and adopted globally.

▪ Digital India has become a people's movement and serves as a center for creating a self-reliant India and making India a trusted partner in innovation and discoveries worldwide.

▪ The Digital India program has brought about a revolution in agriculture through the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM).

▪ This helps connect consumers and farmers directly across the country. With trade worth Rs 4 lakh crores in over 1,400 mandis and empowering 1.7 crore farmers, its impact has been substantial.

Vetri Nichayam (Success Assured) Program

▪ The 'Vetri Nichayam' program will provide short-term skill training by identifying educated unemployed youth and school dropouts.

▪ Priority will be given to all socially and economically backward classes in this program.

▪ Selected candidates will be provided incentives up to Rs 12,000. Accommodation facilities with food will also be provided for students from distant areas.

▪ Through the newly launched Vetri Nichayam program, 75,000 students will be provided skill training annually.

▪ Rs 100 crores has been allocated for the first phase of this program.

Achievements of Naan Mudhalvan Program

▪ Tamil Nadu stands as the number one state in India with the highest growth rate of 9.69 percent.

▪ 41 lakh people have benefited from the Naan Mudhalvan program so far. They are provided training that includes technical skills,

information technology, language knowledge, hackathons, and internships suitable for the growing modern industrial sector.

- In the past 3 years, 3.28 lakh students have secured employment in leading companies through this program.

- Out of 57 people from Tamil Nadu who succeeded in the Civil Services examination this year, 50 were trained under the Naan Mudhalvan program.

International Rapid Chess

- The Super United Rapid and Blitz International Chess Tournament, part of this year's Grand Chess Tour, is being held in Zagreb, Croatia's capital.

- At the end of the 9th round, Gukesh scored 14 points to claim the championship title.

- Polish player Jan Krzysztof Duda finished second, and former world champion Magnus Carlsen took third place.

- Indian Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa tied for fourth place with America's Fabiano Caruana.

Wimbledon 2025- W

- Men's Singles - Jannik Sinner (Italy)

- Women's Singles - Iga Świątek (Poland)

- Men's Doubles - Julian Cash / Lloyd Glasspool (UK)

- Women's Doubles - Veronika Kudermetova (RUSSIA)/ Elise Mertens (BELGIAN)

- Mixed Doubles - Sander Verbeek (Dutch)/ Katerina Siniaková (CZECH)

Fourth ASF Asian surfing championships

- Mamallapuram will play host to the fourth ASF Asian surfing championships from August 3 to 12.

- The competition gains significance as it will serve as a qualification route for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan.

- Surfers from 20 Asian countries will compete.

- Events in 4 short board categories: Open Men, Open Women, U-18 Boys, and U-18 Girls.

- 8 out of 12 Indian national surfers hail from Tamil Nadu, reflecting strong grassroots and elite training programmes.

- It is a major milestone for Indian surfing and boosts Tamil Nadu's global sports and adventure tourism image.

National Sports Administration Bill

- Key features include establishing a National Sports Board to monitor the activities of sports associations and federations in the country, including BCCI, and setting up a National Sports Tribunal to resolve sports-related disputes.

- This bill ensures that all recognized national sports organizations come under the Right to Information Act.

- The bill's explanatory statement mentions that bringing positive changes in sports administration is essential to improve Indians' participation in international competitions, as part of preparatory activities for bidding for the 2036 Olympics.

National Sports Board

- This board will have powers to formulate rules for the proper functioning of national associations and federations for sports and to monitor their activities.

- All federations in the country must obtain recognition from this board to receive central government funding.

National Sports Tribunal

- This tribunal will have the powers of a civil court. Appeals against its decisions can only be made to the Supreme Court.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan Takes Leadership of UN Security Council

- Pakistan has announced that it has assumed the presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of July.

- Pakistan has been appointed as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, which serves as an important body for discussing global security affairs, for a 2-year term starting from January 1st.

- Additionally, Pakistan has also taken on the leadership responsibility of the Taliban Sanctions Committee and the deputy leadership role of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee.

About UN

- The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945.

- It is currently made up of 193 Member States.

- The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

- The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

India-Ghana Sign 4 Agreements

- Four important agreements were signed between the two countries in sectors including Ayurveda and traditional medicine.

- The BRICS summit is scheduled to be held on July 6-7 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. En route to participate in this summit, Prime Minister Modi is undertaking a tour of Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Namibia.

- India is ready to share UPI digital payment transaction technology with Ghana. India will support Ghana's agricultural program called 'Feed Ghana'.

- Medicines will be provided to the Ghanaian people at affordable prices through Jan Aushadhi (People's Pharmacies).

- Yesterday, Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama presented Prime Minister Modi with the country's highest honor, the 'Officer of the Order of the Star' award.

BRICS

- Indonesia joined BRICS as a full member as of January 2025.

- Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Uganda, and Uzbekistan are recognized as partner countries of the BRICS alliance.

- BRICS Summit in India: The BRICS alliance provides full support for India and Brazil to play key roles in the UN Security Council.

- India will chair the BRICS alliance in 2026.

- The 18th BRICS Summit will be held in India.

WHO Launches Integrated Guidelines on Arboviral Diseases

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced its first comprehensive guidelines for the clinical management of arboviral diseases.

- These include dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever.

- The guidelines aim to standardise treatment and improve patient outcomes globally.

- They also assist health policymakers in preparing for epidemics and pandemics in regions affected by mosquito-borne viruses.

- Arboviral diseases are viral infections transmitted mainly by Aedes mosquitoes.

- The key diseases are dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- External Affairs Minister Jaishankar stated that the SCO should not compromise in its stand against terrorism.

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

- The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.

- The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.

- The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.

- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.

Global Shipping- Decarbonisation Goal

- Global shipping aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040–2050, transitioning from fossil fuels to green alternatives.

- Transition Fuels: LNG (liquefied natural gas) is seen as a bridge fuel; the industry is moving toward green methanol (short term) and green ammonia (long term) as main green fuels.

Green Fuel Production

- Green hydrogen is made via electrolysis using renewable energy.

- Green methanol = green hydrogen + CO_2 from industrial sources.

- Green ammonia = green hydrogen + nitrogen; more stable than hydrogen for shipping.

India's Role:

- India plans to decarbonise domestic shipping and build green fuel hubs at Tuticorin and Kandla.

- Aims to export green fuels to major bunkering stations like Singapore.

- Partnerships with overseas shipbuilders from South Korea and Japan are being pursued to support India's shipbuilding strength.

- India is pushing for green-fuel capable ships, aiming to build 20% of its 110-ship purchase plan domestically with incentives for retrofits and foreign partnerships.

- With its solar potential, CO_2 sources, and growing electrolyser capacity, India can become a global hub for green marine fuels and boost its ship owning and shipbuilding ecosystem.

India-EFTA Trade Agreement to be Implemented from October 1

- The India-EFTA (European Free Trade Association) trade agreement will be implemented from October 1.

- EFTA includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

- The agreement aims to boost mutual trade and investment between India and these four countries.

- EFTA countries will invest □8.5 lakh crore (USD 100 billion) in India over 15 years:

- USD 50 billion in the first 10 years.

- USD 50 billion in the next 5 years.

- The investment is expected to create 10 lakh new jobs in India.

- India will gradually remove customs duties over 10 years on products like Swiss watches, chocolates, biscuits, and wall clocks.

About European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- It is an intergovernmental organization set up for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – and the benefit of their trading partners around the globe.

- It was established by a Convention signed in Stockholm on 4th January 1960.

China Begins Construction of World's Largest Dam across Brahmaputra River in Tibet

- China has begun construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, near the Arunachal Pradesh border.

- India has raised concerns over the dam's impact on the Brahmaputra River's flow, especially for India and Bangladesh.

- The Brahmaputra River originates in Tibet, flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, enters Bangladesh, and drains into the Bay of Bengal.

- India is also building dams (largest hydropower dam on the Siang River) on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

India-UK Trade Agreement

- The India-UK trade agreement was signed on July 24 in the presence of Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Keir Starmer.

- Both countries have extensive cooperation in various sectors including trade, investment, technology, innovation, defense, education, research, sustainable use of resources, health, and people-to-people connections.

- In the 2023-24 financial year, bilateral trade between India and the UK was $21.34 billion.

- Through this agreement, 99% of goods exported from India to Britain will receive complete tax exemption.

Pakistan Resolution in UN Security Council

- A resolution proposed by Pakistan regarding strengthening mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council.

- The Security Council consists of 15 members, and the chairmanship rotates monthly among member countries in alphabetical order. Pakistan currently holds the July presidency.

UN Security Council

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the UN, consisting of 15 members including five permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, and USA with veto power).

CETA Free Trade Agreement

- India and the U.K., in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a free trade pact aimed at enhancing bilateral ties.

- The agreement replaces the earlier 'Roadmap 2030' with the expanded 'India-U.K. Vision 2035', outlining long-term cooperation goals.

- Under CETA, Britain will offer tax concessions on 99% of Indian exports, including full customs duty exemptions on 99% of marine products and about 95% of agricultural products.

- PM Modi emphasized that the deal would elevate diplomatic relations with renewed momentum over the next decade.

India & Maldives Celebrate 60 Years of Friendship With Stunning Stamp Release

Historical Background

- Diplomatic relations established in 1965, shortly after Maldives' independence.

- India was one of the first countries to recognize Maldives.

- Over 60 years, relations have expanded in areas like: Trade, Security & Defense, Tourism, Healthcare, Climate resilience and Infrastructure

Significance of the Stamps

- Symbolize the shared maritime heritage and centuries-old ties.

- Reflect cultural, economic, and strategic cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

- Emphasize historical trade and oceanic connections between both nations.

Features of the Stamps

- Designed to reflect traditional craftsmanship and history.

- **Uru:** A large wooden dhow handcrafted in Kerala's Beypore boatyards, historically used for Indian Ocean trade.

- **Vadhu Dhoni**: A Maldivian vessel used for reef and coastal fishing, symbolizing self-reliance and maritime heritage.

- The artwork and design highlight sustainability, tradition, and regional unity.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Tamil novels deal with the rule of Rajendra Chola

- Balakumaran authored Gangai Konda Cholan as a sequel to his novel Udayar, which focused on Rajendra's father, Raja Raja Chola.

- Vennila's Gangapuram explores the inner world of Rajendra, often overshadowed by his legendary father, despite his achievements.

- Nagasamy(Author)-Gangaikondacholapuram Book (1970)

MISCELLANEOUS

Tent City

- Dhordo, Gujarat, is commonly known as the "Tent City" in India.

- It's the location of the famous Rann Utsav, a cultural festival held in the Great Rann of Kutch.

- The festival features a temporary city of luxurious tents, offering visitors a unique experience of the region's art, culture, and cuisine amidst the white desert landscape.