Smart Leaders IAS
Smart Way to Succeed

2025

2025
TNPSC
GROUP-I

SANGAMAM
CURRENT AFFAIRS
COMPILATION
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Smart Leaders IAS
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TNPSC SANGAMAM- CURRENT AFFAIRS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TAMIL NADU SCHEMES

TAMIL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. 'Vergalai Thedi' (reaching your roots) Scheme is a Milestone in My Political Career: Chief Minister

- The Chief Minister has stated that the 'Vergalai Thedi' (reaching your roots) scheme is a milestone in his political journey and represents a major success for the principles of the Dravidian movement.
- For the first time this year, the award for "Best Cultural Ambassador" has been presented to a young overseas Tamil who acted as a bridge between the Tamil diaspora and Tamil Nadu.

'Vergalai Thedi' Scheme

- **Launched on**: 24.05.2023
- **Objective**: To bring 200 Tamil youth aged between 18 and 30 from abroad to Tamil Nadu at the government's expense, helping them learn about the pride and heritage of Tamils.
- **World Tamil Diaspora Day:** The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrates World Tamil Diaspora Day on January 11 and 12 every year to unite Tamils living abroad with their homeland.

2. New ₹10 Crore Scheme to Teach Tamil Language and Arts Abroad

- At the World Tamil Diaspora Day celebration held in Chennai, the Chief Minister announced a new ₹10 crore scheme aimed at teaching the Tamil language, folk arts, and Tamil traditional music to the next generations of Tamils living abroad.
- Under this scheme, 100 teachers and artists will be sent to provide direct training in these subjects.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

3. 'Mudhalvar Marundhagams' (CM's pharmacies)

- **Launched on**: February 25, 2025
- **Objective**: To provide **high-quality medicines at affordable prices** to the public through the Tamil Nadu **Cooperation Department**.

Key Features:

- In the **first phase**, **1,000 medical shops** will be established across Tamil Nadu.
- These shops will sell **generic and other essential medicines** at **low cost**.

- This initiative was originally announced in the **Independence Day address** on **August 15, 2024**.

Eligibility:
- Applicants must have completed **B.Pharm. or D.Pharm.**, or be approved by someone with these qualifications.
- A **minimum space of 110 sq. ft.** is required, either **owned** or **rented**.

If the space is owned, any one of the following must be submitted as proof:
- Property tax receipt
- Water tax receipt
- Electricity bill

If the space is rented, a **registered rental agreement** must be submitted along with the application.

Financial Assistance:
- The government will provide a **subsidy of ₹3 lakh**, in **two phases**:
  - ₹1.5 lakh in **cash subsidy**
  - ₹1.5 lakh worth of **medicines** supplied by the government

4. Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme

- **Launched in**: 2024
- **Initiated by**: Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
- **Target District (Pilot Phase)**: Villupuram

- **Target Group**: **Girls aged 9 to 14 years**
- **Cause of Disease**: Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- **Vaccine**: HPV vaccine provided **free of cost**

Key Highlights:
- Implemented as a **preventive health measure** against **cervical cancer**.
- Initially rolled out as a **pilot programme in Villupuram** district.
- As announced in the **State Budget**, the vaccine will be **gradually extended** to cover **all 14-year-old girls** across Tamil Nadu.
- **₹36 crore** has been allocated for the implementation of this programme.

5. 'Innuyir Kaappom – Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme to Be Implemented Nationwide

- The Central Government has obtained data from the *'Innuyir Kaappom – Nammai Kaakkum 48'* scheme and plans to implement it across India soon.

'Innuyir Kaappom – Nammai Kaakkum 48' Scheme

- **Launched on**: 18.12.2021
- **Objective**: This is a flagship initiative by the Tamil Nadu government aimed at reducing fatalities caused by road accidents.

Key Features:

- Road accident victims within Tamil Nadu will receive **free medical treatment for the first 48 hours** following the accident.
- Treatment costs of up to ₹**2 lakhs per person** (initially ₹1 lakh) are covered for **81 selected medical procedures**.
- A total of **609 hospitals** have been empanelled for this scheme, including **201 government hospitals** and **408 private hospitals**, based on eligibility.
- A **toll-free helpline number 104** is available for assistance.

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

6. **Namma School – Namma Ooru Palli (Our School – Our Village School)**
- *Namma School – Namma Ooru Palli (NSNOP)* is a scheme launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu to upgrade government schools with support and contributions from the community and large corporations.
- **Launched on**: December 19, 2022
- A dedicated website has been created for this scheme: https://nammaschool.tnschools.gov.in/

7. ***Palli Chaalaram (Virtual Pavilion)***
- The *School Education Department* has launched a new web portal called **Palli Chaalaram (Virtual Pavilion)** to bring together alumni of government schools and support the development of these schools.
- **Launch Date**: January 2025
- **Department**: School Education Department

Key Features:
- The portal features detailed information about all government schools in Tamil Nadu, including their current status, faculty, and notable alumni.
- Former students of government schools can register on the platform and contribute support or resources to their alma mater based on specific needs.

8. ***Manarkeni* App**
- The *Department of School Education* has instructed officials to assess whether the *Manarkeni App* is being used effectively in schools.
- Teachers have been directed to utilize the *Manarkeni App* for teaching activities in classrooms.
- **Launched in**: 2023

- **Developed by**: State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)

About the *Manarkeni* App:

- The *Manarkeni App* has been designed to enhance learning activities in Tamil Nadu using modern computer-based technologies.
- The app provides animated videos in both **Tamil** and **English** for subjects from **1st to 12th grade**, making it easier for students to understand.
- For **11th and 12th-grade subjects**, each topic is linked to relevant content from **6th to 10th grade**, ensuring a progressive learning experience.

9. ***Illam Thedi Kalvi* Scheme Boosts Learning Enthusiasm**
- According to the central government's economic survey, Tamil Nadu contributes **47%** to India's leather goods exports, and the *Illam Thedi Kalvi* scheme has significantly increased students' enthusiasm for learning.
- **Launched on**: October 27, 2021
  Objective: To reduce the learning gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Beneficiaries**: Government school students from **1st to**

8th grade.
Key Features:
- Education is provided by **volunteers**.
- Classes are conducted in the **evenings** in the areas where the students reside.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

10. **1% Stamp Duty Reduction for Property Registered in Women's Name**
- **Effective from**: April 1, 2025
- **Objective**: To ensure **gender equality** not just in society, but also within families by promoting **women's ownership of immovable assets**.

Key Features:
- A **1% reduction in registration charges** is offered for **immovable properties** such as **houses, plots, and agricultural lands** worth up to **₹10 lakhs**, **if registered in a woman's name**.
- This benefit is expected to apply to **up to 75% of property registrations**.

Rules and Conditions:
- If the property is **jointly purchased**, **all names on the document must be women** to qualify.
- The same property **cannot be split into parts** and

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registered separately to misuse the concession.

11. Free Transport of SHG Products in Buses for Women

- **Announced on**: International Women's Day (March 8)
- **Implemented by**: Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
- **Objective**: To support **women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** by facilitating the **free transport of their products** for marketing and distribution.

Key Highlights:

- Women belonging to **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, holding a valid **SHG ID card** issued by the **Tamil Nadu Corporation for Women**, are eligible.
- They can carry up to **25 kg of products** on **state-run city and suburban buses** (excluding AC buses) **free of cost**.
- This benefit is allowed for travel up to **100 kilometers** on **regular fare suburban buses**.

12. Pink Auto Scheme

- **Launched on**: March 8 (International Women's Day)
- **Department**: Department of Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment
- **Objective**: To empower women by providing them with livelihood opportunities through a **safe and women-led auto rickshaw service**.

Key Features:

- In the **first phase**, **250 women drivers** were selected and the **'Pink Auto' service** was launched in **Chennai**.
- The government provides a **subsidy of up to ₹1 lakh** for eligible women to purchase autos.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Only **women** can apply.
- Age must be between **25 and 45 years**.
- Must have **passed 10th standard** and hold a **valid driving license**.
- Must be a **resident of Chennai**.

13. 'Police Akka' Scheme

- The *'Police Akka'* scheme was launched in 2022 in Coimbatore by City Police Commissioner Balakrishnan to ensure the safety of female college students.
- **Objective**: To encourage female students to report problems to the police without hesitation and to protect them from sexual harassment.

'Police Bro' Scheme

- The *'Police Bro'* initiative is also in place, allowing male

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college students to report issues like ragging and drug-related concerns to designated police officers in their respective colleges.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

14. Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

- **Launched on**: December 9, 2022
- **Objective**: To implement climate change management and mitigation actions.
- **Department**: Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Key Points:

- A **Climate Change Management Committee** has been set up under the leadership of the **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**.
- Tamil Nadu will be the first state in India to host a conference specifically focused on climate change.
- The name of the department has been changed to **Department of Environment and Climate Change** to reflect its broader focus.
- In the **2021-2022 budget**, the Tamil Nadu government announced a plan to allocate ₹**500 crore** for the implementation of the *Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission* aimed at managing

and mitigating climate change.

15. Blue Flag Certification for Beaches Scheme

- **Launched in**: 2022
- **Objective**:
  - To promote sustainable tourism and improve coastal management practices.
  - To reduce pollution along the coastlines.
  - To elevate beaches to **international standards**.
- **First Achievement**:
  - **Chengalpattu Kovalam Beach** became the **first beach in Tamil Nadu** to receive the **Blue Flag Certification**.

16. Green Tamil Nadu Mission

- **Launched in**: 2022
- **Objective**: To increase the forest cover from **21% to 33%** over the next **ten years**.
- **Department**: Department of Environment and Climate Change.

17. Climate Smart Villages

- **Launched in**: 2022
- **Objective**:
  - To make full use of **solar energy**.
  - To provide information related to

climate change and promote **green development** in rural areas, transforming these villages into **Smart Villages**.

o **10 villages** in Tamil Nadu have been selected for this initiative. A detailed action plan has been developed and implemented with the collaboration of the **World Resources Institute**.

o The **Energy Education Center** at **Anna University** has been tasked with selecting green energy experts for this initiative.

18. **Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme**
   - **Launched in**: 2022
   - **Objective**:
     o To face the challenges posed by **climate change** and identify various strategies to adapt and live with its impacts.
     o To collaborate with district administrations and provide **climate change-related consultations**

suitable for each district.

o The initiative also aims to select **green energy experts** for each district to implement localized solutions.

19. **Green Heritage Project**
   - **Launched in**: 2022
   - **Part of**: Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
   - **Objective**:
     o Two temples in Tamil Nadu have been selected to be developed as **model temples** that embrace climate change adaptation.
     o These temples will be transformed to be more resilient to climate change through improvements in areas like **energy efficiency**, **water usage**, and **waste management**.
     o The goal is to make these temples sustainable and climate-resilient, setting an example for others to follow.

20. **Green Schools**
   - **Launched in**: 2022
   - **Objective**:

- To raise **environmental awareness** among students.
- To help students understand the importance and benefits of **trees**.
- To promote the use of **renewable energy** and reduce dependency on conventional fossil fuels.

Details:
- **25 schools** in Tamil Nadu have been selected for this initiative.
- Solar panels will be installed in these schools to generate electricity, which will be used for the schools' needs.
- Additionally, **electric motors** will be used to maintain herbal and vegetable gardens within the school premises, making the schools eco-friendlier and more self-sustaining.
- The initiative aims to transform these schools into **Green Schools**, setting a model for others to follow.

21. The Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
- **Launched in**: August 2022
- **Objectives**:
  - To **identify and map** wetlands in Tamil Nadu.
  - To prepare **detailed documents** such as an **Integrated Wetland Management Plan** for wetlands identified under the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**.
  - To raise awareness about **wetland protection** through **public awareness campaigns**.
  - To promote research, **listing**, and **monitoring** of wetland resources for effective management.

22. TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam)
- **Announced in**: January 2024
- **Purpose**: To restore and conserve Tamil Nadu's **coastal ecosystems**.

Background:
- This is the **fourth major environmental initiative** by the Government of Tamil Nadu, following the:
  - Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission
  - Green Tamil Nadu Mission

o Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission

Scope:
- The mission will focus on **14 coastal districts** across **1,076 km** of Tamil Nadu's coastline.
- It will be implemented over **five years** with **financial support from the World Bank**.

Key Objectives:
- Promote **coastal biodiversity conservation**.
- Strengthen **coastal protection**.
- Improve **livelihoods of coastal communities**.
- Control **pollution** in coastal areas.

Special Initiatives:
- Establishment of **Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency** to harness the potential of the **blue economy**.
- Restoration of **mangroves, coral reefs, and salt marshes** to enhance carbon capture and ecological resilience.

23. The Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (SPSHEP)

- **Description:** The Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (SPSHEP) (SPSHEP) is a significant infrastructure initiative proposed by Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) to meet the state's peak electricity demand and support renewable energy integration.
- **Location:** The project is located in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, specifically within the Kunda area, bordering the Silent Valley and Mukurthi National Parks.
- **Objective:** The aim of the project is to generate 1,000 megawatts of electricity to fulfill the state's peak electricity demand.

INDUSTRIAL

24. 'Nimirndhu Nil' Scheme

- The "Nimirndhu Nil" scheme will be implemented with the aim of providing innovation and entrepreneurship training to 6 lakh students studying in 2,000 educational institutions in Tamil Nadu, as announced by the Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Thangam Thennarasu, in the Legislative Assembly.

25. The Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam   **Start Date:** April 19, 2025

Feature	Central Government's Vishwakarma Scheme	State Government's Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam
Age Limit	Minimum 18 years	Minimum 35 years, without affecting higher education
Types of Professions/ Sectors	18 types of handicraft professions	25 types of professions
Investment Subsidy	No subsidy	25% investment subsidy
Loan Disbursement Method	In two installments	Full amount in a single installment

26. Chief Minister's 'Kaakkum Karangal' Scheme

- **Launched on**: February 19, 2025
- **Objective**: To transform former soldiers and their families into entrepreneurs.

Key Features:

- Former soldiers can avail loans up to **₹1 crore** through banks to start their own businesses.
- The loan amount will also include **30% capital subsidy** and **3% interest subsidy**.

Beneficiaries:

- Former soldiers under the age of **55**.
- Widows of soldiers who died in service.
- Unmarried daughters of former soldiers.
- Widowed daughters of former soldiers.

27. Rural Entrepreneurs Scheme

- The *Rural Entrepreneurs Scheme* is being implemented under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- **Launched in**: 2016 as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **Objective**: To provide financial assistance and encouragement to aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly young individuals in rural areas, who are starting small-scale businesses or enterprises.
- The Tamil Nadu government has released a **state share**

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fund of **₹4.16 crores** to support this initiative.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

28. **Additional River Water Link Scheme**
    - **Launched on**: February 7, 2025
    - Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated the *Thamiravaruni-Karumeniyar-Nambiyar* River link canal project in a ceremony held in Tirunelveli.

    Notes:
    - The project was first launched by the then Chief Minister, Karunanidhi, on **February 21, 2009**.
    - The scheme aims to divert floodwater from the Thamirabarani river to the arid areas of **Tisayanvilai** and **Saathankulam**.

    Objective:
    - The project involves linking **3,200 cusecs of water** per second from the Thamirabarani river to **Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers**, for **10 days**, delivering a total of **2,765 million cusecs** of water to these rivers.
    - **23,040 hectares** of land will benefit from irrigation, with **14,084.98 hectares** in Tirunelveli district and **8,905.02 hectares** in Thoothukudi district

receiving water for agricultural purposes.

29. **'Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril' (Reaching You in Your Village) Scheme**
    - **Launched in**: January 2024
    - **Objective**: To ensure that all **government welfare schemes and services** reach the public **promptly and without delay**.

    Implementation:
    - In all districts **except Chennai**, camps are held on the **4th Wednesday of every month** under the leadership of the **District Collector**.
    - In **Chennai**, the camp is conducted under the leadership of the **City Commissioner**.

    Key Features:
    - The **District Collector and senior district-level officials** will stay overnight (from **9 AM to 9 AM the next day**) in a **designated revenue division**.
    - They will **personally inspect and review** the implementation of various government schemes and services being operated by different departments, ensuring transparency and accountability.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. **Fisheries Insurance Scheme**
   - **Started:** May 2025
   - Launched under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Sampada Yojana (PM-MKSSY) is a sub-scheme.
   - **Objective:** To provide risk reduction and financial security to marginal fish farmers.

2. **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme**
   - **Started:** May 2025
   - Launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
   - **Objective:** To establish India as a global hub for green hydrogen production and export.

3. **Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025**
   - **Started:** May 2025
   - This scheme ensures prompt and hassle-free medical services for road accident victims across the country.
   - Under this scheme, the maximum benefit is set at ₹1.5 lakh, and it remains valid for up to seven days from the date of the accident.

4. **National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM)**
   - The Ministry of Mines has issued guidelines for establishing Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) to accelerate research, innovation, and technology development in key minerals.
   - **Announcement:** 2024-25 Union Budget
   - **Objective:** Strengthening the supply chain for India's critical minerals through domestic research, acquisition of foreign assets, and technological discoveries.

5. **Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II)**
   - To promote development in strategically important border areas, the Union Cabinet approved the second phase of the **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II)** in **April 2025**.

About VVP-II:
   - VVP-II will be implemented in selected strategic villages across the following states

and union territories till the financial year **2028–29**: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

About the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP):

- Announced in the **Union Budget 2022**, the **Vibrant Villages Programme** is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at developing border villages, especially along India's northern frontier.
- **Launch Date:** April 10, 2023
- It covers 46 blocks in 19 districts of border regions in **Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand**, along with the **Union Territory of Ladakh**.

6. **Baalpan Ki Kavita Initiative**
- **Launch**: March 2025
- **By**: Ministry of Education, Government of India
- **Objective**: To revive and promote traditional Indian **rhymes and poems** for **young children**. This initiative focuses on preserving India's rich literary and cultural heritage by integrating age-old poetic expressions into early childhood education.

7. **PM-YUVA 3.0**
- Launched on 11th March 2025 by the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education, **PM-YUVA 3.0** is a scheme aimed at guiding young writers.
- **Objective**: The scheme encourages reading, writing, and the promotion of book culture among emerging writers under the age of 30, helping them develop their skills and contribute to the literary world.

8. **Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 3.0 Launch**
- The **Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 3.0** was launched in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in February 2025.
- **Launch**: 2022
- **Objective**: To celebrate the ancient cultural and civilizational ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- **Focus**: Highlighting contributions to the country's cultural unity, particularly through Siddha medicine (Indian traditional healing), classical Tamil literature, and the significant role played by Agathiyar (a revered figure in Tamil culture).

9. **India's 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign**
   - **Launch**: 7th December 2024
   - **Department**: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
   - **Objective**: To identify and treat undiagnosed tuberculosis (TB) patients in the 347 districts where TB is prevalent. The aim is to significantly reduce deaths caused by tuberculosis.

10. **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme**
    - The central government has approved the introduction of a new credit guarantee scheme for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as announced in the Budget for the financial year 2024-2025.
    - This scheme, called the **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME)**, provides credit guarantee insurance for MSMEs eligible to purchase equipment and machinery, offering loans up to ₹100 crores.
    - **Objective**: To provide a 60% guarantee security through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for loans up to ₹100 crores to MSMEs eligible for purchasing tools/machinery.

11. **Pradhan Mantri Internship Scheme**
    - **Launch**: Announced during the 2024-25 Budget
    - **Objective**: Designed to provide valuable internship opportunities to Indian youth, this scheme aims to offer 12-month internship placements in the top 500 companies of the country for young individuals aged 21-24 years, from low-income families.
    - The program seeks to enhance the skills and employability of these young people by providing them with hands-on experience in renowned organizations.

12. **Pratibimb Software**
    - **Pratibimb** is a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based software launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in 2024.
    - **Objective**: To assist law enforcement agencies, including state police, in mapping cybercriminals in real-time and dismantling their networks. This tool helps in the effective tracking and analysis of cybercrime activities.

13. Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana Rooftop Solar Power Scheme

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, has issued implementation guidelines for the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana Rooftop Solar Power Scheme (PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana).
- These include features such as the "Payment Security Mechanism" for aggregator models and "Central Financial Assistance (CFA)."

14. Green Credit Program

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) **Launch Date:** December 1, 2023 (Launched at COP28 in Dubai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan) **Objective:** To encourage voluntary environment-friendly actions through tradable "green credits."
- This program is aligned with **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, which aims to promote sustainable lifestyles and environmentally conscious behavior.

15. The NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme

- **Project Duration**: From the financial year 2023-24 to 2025-26 (3 years).
- **Departments Involved**: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) & Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Objective:

- To eliminate manual scavenging by promoting mechanized sanitation.
- To improve the safety and dignity of workers involved in sewage and septic tank cleaning.
- To formalize the workforce and provide skill development opportunities.

16. MISHTI Scheme (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)

- **Launch**: Recognized on World Environment Day, 5th June 2023, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Objective**: From 2023-24, over the next five years, the scheme aims to restore approximately 540 square kilometers of degraded mangrove forests across 9 states and 3 Union Territories, enhancing shoreline habitats and generating tangible incomes.

17. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

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- **Launch**: February 2023
- **Objective**: To upgrade and modernize railway stations across the Indian Railways network.

18. Parvatmala Pariyojana

- The **Parvatmala Project**, also known as the National Ropeway Development Project, was announced in the 2022-23 Union Budget.
- **Objective**:
  o To improve connectivity and facilities for passengers in hilly regions.
  o To reduce congestion in urban areas where conventional transport methods are either inadequate or not feasible.
  o To promote tourism and enhance the overall connectivity and convenience for travelers in mountainous areas.

19. PM SHRI Schools (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India)

- **Launch**: 2022–23 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India
- **Objective**: To develop **14,500 model schools** across India that serve as **exemplary institutions**, reflecting the **principles of** the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- These schools aim to deliver high-quality education, integrating technology, modern pedagogy, skill development, and inclusive practices to set benchmarks for other schools to follow.

20. Palna scheme

- In 2022, erstwhile National Creche Scheme was reorganized and renamed as Palna Scheme under the sub scheme 'Samarthya' of 'Mission Shakti'.

Objective:

To provide children (aged 6 months to 6 years) with:

- Quality childcare facilities in a safe environment
- Nutritional support
- Health care and immunization
- Cognitive development
- Growth monitoring
- Disease prevention. The scheme focuses on the holistic development and well-being of young children.

21. Bhashini Scheme

- Under the Bhashini scheme, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has enhanced the e-Shram portal with support for 22 languages.

Digital India Bhashini

- Digital India Bhashini is an AI-powered language translation platform of India.
- **Launch**: August 2022
- **Objective**: To significantly increase the availability of content on the internet in Indian languages.

22. Mission Amrit Sarovar

- As part of the celebration of the Amrit Mahotsav of India's Independence, the Central Government launched the Mission Amrit Sarovar on April 24, 2022.
- The objective of this mission is to rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district across the country, giving them a new lease of life.

23. National Technical Textiles Mission

- Recognized by the Indian government as a sunrise sector, the textile industry saw the launch of the National Technical Textiles Mission in 2020 by the Ministry of Textiles.
- This initiative aims to promote and develop the technical textiles sector in India.

24. Genome India Project

- The Department of Biotechnology recently (January 2025) announced a new platform and infrastructure for sharing its dataset of 10,000 human genomes.

About the Genome India Project
- **Launch**: January 2020
- **Objective**: To identify the genetic diversity of India's population through large-scale genome sequencing.

25. SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.)

- The SVAMITVA scheme was launched on April 24, 2020, on National Panchayati Raj Day.
- **Objective:** To provide legal property documents for houses and lands in villages using drones and mapping technology.

26. e-Shram Portal

- The government has reported that more than 30.68 crore unorganized sector workers have been registered on the e-Shram portal.
- **Launch**: 2021
- **Objective**: To create a comprehensive national database of unorganized sector workers.
- **Benefits**: If a registered worker faces an accident, they are eligible for compensation—₹2 lakh for death or permanent

disability, and ₹1 lakh for partial disability.

- **Target**: To register 38 crore unorganized sector workers, including construction workers, migrant workers, street vendors, and domestic workers.

27. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Yojana (PM-POSHAN)

- **Launch**: September 2021
- **Approval**: Central Cabinet
- **Objective**: The PM-POSHAN scheme aims to provide hot, cooked meals to children studying in government and government-aided schools.
  - Total **funding**: ₹1.31 trillion
  - **Duration**: 5 years (from 2021-22 to 2025-26)

28. Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

- Launched in 2021, this scheme integrates several programs with similar objectives, such as the Supplementary Nutrition Program and Poshan Abhiyaan, under one umbrella.
- **Funding**:
  - 60:40 sharing between the Union and State/Union Territory governments.
  - For Northeastern (NER) & Himalayan States: 90:10 sharing between the central and state governments.

29. Young Scientist Program (YUVIKA)

- **Launch**: 2019
- **Organization**: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Objective**: To generate interest in space science among school students.
- **Eligibility**: Students studying in 9th grade.
- **Selection**: Three students are selected annually from each state across the country.

30. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **Launch**: February 2019
- **Funding**: 100% centrally funded scheme.
- **Department**: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- **Objective**: The central government provides ₹6,000 annually to all land-owning farmers, directly into their bank accounts in three equal installments, irrespective of the size of their land. This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to farmers for their overall welfare.

31. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM)

- **Launch**: February 2019
- **Objective**: To provide social security for unorganized sector workers.
- The scheme ensures a minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000 after the age of 60 for workers from the unorganized sector with a monthly income of up to ₹15,000.

32. Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- **Launch**: 2018
- **Formed By Merging**:
  - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
  - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
  - Teacher Education
- **Objective**: In alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the scheme aims to provide holistic school education from **pre-primary to class 12**, ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality learning for all children.
- It focuses on improving school infrastructure, teacher training, digital learning, and student learning outcomes across all levels of education.

33. Poshan Abhiyaan

- **Launch**: 8th March 2018
- **Objectives**:
  - To prevent and reduce stunting and developmental delays in children aged 0-6 years.
  - To prevent and reduce malnutrition (low weight prevalence) in children aged 0-6 years.
  - To reduce the prevalence of anemia among women and young girls (aged 15-49 years).

34. UDAN Scheme

- The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN ("Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik") was launched in 2016.
- The first UDAN flight was operated in 2017 between Shimla and Delhi.
- **Objective:** To provide affordable regional air travel and promote economic growth in tier-II and tier-III cities.

35. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- **Launch**: 18th February 2016
- **Objective**: To provide protection to crops from unexpected natural calamities and ensure farmers are compensated for crop losses.

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- The new crop insurance scheme is designed around the principle of "One Nation, One Scheme."
- The scheme integrates the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

36. BharatNet

- **Started:** 30.04.2016
- **Objective:** To provide unrestricted access to broadband connectivity for all telecom service providers.
- It is one of the largest rural telecommunications projects in the world.

37. Skill India

- The central cabinet has approved an allocation of ₹8,800 crores for the continuation of the National Skill Development Program, "Skill India," until the end of the year 2026.
- **Launch**: 2015
- **Objective**: The Skill India initiative aims to enhance the workforce's skillset to international standards. The program was launched by the Government of India in 2015 with the goal of providing skill development training to approximately 40 crore (400 million) people by 2022.

38. Soil Health Cards Scheme

- **Launch**: 19th February 2015
- **Department**: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- **Objective**: This scheme helps state governments provide Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country.
- These cards provide information on the soil's health and the necessary corrective measures for improving soil quality, thereby promoting sustainable farming practices.

39. Sagarmala Project

- Launched in March 2015, the Sagarmala Project is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways aimed at transforming India's maritime sector.
- It promotes economic growth, generates employment opportunities, and encourages India's leadership in the blue economy.

40. "Beti Bachao; Beti Padhao" Movement Success

- The central government's initiative, "Beti Bachao; Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child; Educate the Girl

Child), has played a significant role in breaking gender stereotypes and has garnered widespread participation from all sections of society, as highlighted by the Prime Minister.

- **Launch**: 22nd January 2015
- **Departments Involved**: Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development
- According to the 2001 Census, the child sex ratio (0-6 years) in India was 927 girls for every 1,000 boys. This decreased further to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- **Objective**: The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign aims to address the declining child sex ratio (CSR) by promoting the welfare of the girl child.

41. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**
- **Launch**: 2008-09
- **Revised**: The scheme was restructured and renamed **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)** from April 1, 2018.
- **Objective**: This centrally funded scheme aims to enhance social infrastructure and basic amenities in identified 1,300 areas across India, focusing on the development of minority communities. The scheme was originally launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under the Multi-sectoral Development Programme in 2008-09.

42. **Ekalavya Schools**
- **Launch**: Introduced in 1997-98 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- **Objective**: **Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** are established with the aim of providing quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote and rural areas.
- These government-run schools are designed to ensure that tribal students receive the best possible educational opportunities, thereby enhancing their skills and improving their overall quality of life.

43. **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**
- Launched in 1998, the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme provides farmers with timely and adequate access to credit for agricultural and related activities.
- **Expansion**: In 2004, the scheme was extended to

meet the investment credit needs of farmers, including both agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

- **Objective**: To ensure farmers have easy access to credit for their farming activities, promoting better productivity and financial security.

44. Blue Flag Certification

- The **Blue Flag** is one of the world's most recognized voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

In India, the following beaches have received Blue Flag certification:

- **Odisha** – Golden Beach
- **Gujarat** – Shivrajpur Beach
- **Kerala** – Kappad Beach, Shankhumugham (Shal) Beach
- **Diu** – Ghoghla Beach
- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** – Radhanagar Beach
- **Karnataka** – Kasarkod Beach, Padubidri Beach
- **Andhra Pradesh** – Rushikonda Beach
- **Puducherry** – Eden Beach
- **Lakshadweep** – Minicoy Thundi Beach, Kadmat Beach. These beaches have been recognized for meeting strict environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria.

45. KAVACH 5.0 system

- **Objective**: To enhance the safety of Mumbai's suburban railway services by implementing the KAVACH 5.0 system.
- The **KAVACH (Collision Avoidance System)** is an automated safety mechanism introduced by Indian Railways to prevent accidents caused by human errors, signal violations, and speeding.
- The **KAVACH 5.0** system is designed to automatically control the train's speed and halt it if necessary to avoid collisions, ensuring the safety of passengers.

46. National Health Mission 5-Year Extension

- The Union Cabinet has approved a 5-year extension for the National Health Mission (NHM) and an increase in the minimum support price for the scheme.

National Health Mission

- The National Health Mission (NHM) was launched by integrating the National Rural Health Mission (2005) and the National Urban Health Mission (2013).

Objective: To strengthen healthcare systems in rural and urban areas, focusing on reproductive, maternal, newborn,

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child, and adolescent health (RMNCH+A), as well as addressing both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Successful Docking of Two Spacecrafts in Orbit

- Under the SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment) mission, ISRO has successfully performed the docking operation of two spacecraft in orbit.
- With this achievement, India has become the fourth country to demonstrate this advanced space technology.
- ISRO has planned to establish a space research station called "Bharatiya Antariksh Station" (BAS) by the year 2035.
- As part of this initiative, ISRO launched the SPADEX mission to carry out docking experiments between spacecraft in space.
- For this purpose, two specially designed spacecraft — SPADEX-A and SPADEX-B — were launched into orbit on December 30 using the PSLV-C60 rocket from the launch site at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- These two spacecrafts have now been successfully docked in orbit.

2. India – A Global Maritime Power

- Prime Minister dedicated three naval warships — INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer — to the nation at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- It is a matter of pride that all three warships were indigenously built in India.
- **INS Nilgiri** was commissioned as a tribute to the maritime strength of the Chola dynasty.
- **INS Surat** was named to commemorate Gujarat's historic role in connecting India to West Asia through its ports. It is also India's first warship equipped with artificial intelligence technology.
- Following the launch of the first submarine under the Kalvari class, the sixth submarine **INS Vagsheer**, under Project 75, was commissioned.

3. Mission Mausam

- On January 14, 2025, the 150th Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) was celebrated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- During the event, the Prime Minister of India launched a new weather initiative called **'Mission Mausam'**.
- *Mission Mausam* is aimed at developing state-of-the-art weather monitoring technologies and infrastructure.

- The mission focuses on implementing high-resolution atmospheric forecasting systems, next-generation radars, satellites, and high-performance computing systems.
- Its primary objective is to enhance the understanding of weather and climate processes for better prediction and preparedness.

4. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)

- The Central Government has reconstituted the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)**, including **T.V. Somanathan** as the Cabinet Secretary and **Manoj Govil** as the Expenditure Secretary.
- **Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has been appointed as the Chairman of the reconstituted Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

About the Atomic Energy Commission:

- The AEC was established in **1948** under the leadership of **Dr. Homi J. Bhabha**.
- It functions as the governing body that oversees the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- The **Prime Minister of India** is the official head of the Atomic Energy Commission.

5. Nag Mk-2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile

- The **indigenously developed Nag Mk-2**, a third-generation anti-tank *fire-and-forget* guided missile, recently underwent successful field evaluation trials at the Pokhran firing range in the presence of senior Indian Army officials.
- The **Nag Mk-2 missile** has an estimated strike range of **7 to 10 kilometers**, significantly extending beyond the **4-kilometer** range of the earlier Nag Mk-1 variant.
- Developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** at a cost of ₹300 crore, this missile is a significant upgrade in India's defense capabilities.
- The system is based on **"fire-and-forget" technology**, meaning it requires no further guidance after launch, enhancing operational efficiency and safety.

6. Cowpea Seeds Sprout in Space

- ISRO has taken a significant step in the field of **space-based plant cultivation** and has achieved early success in this initiative.
- During the **PSLV-C60 POEM-4 mission**, ISRO announced that **cowpea seeds** (karamani) sent into space have begun to germinate.
- This experiment was conducted using the **Compact Radiation and Orbital Plant System**

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(CROPS) module, designed for orbital plant research.

- The trial marks a **notable advancement in understanding plant growth in space conditions**.
- Developed by the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, the CROPS payload is an autonomous system designed to study **plant growth and survival under microgravity** conditions.

7. CBI Launches 'BharatPol' Platform

- For the first time in India, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has launched a new platform called **'BharatPol'**.
- Available on the official CBI website, **BharatPol** allows easy access to information about **wanted criminals** and other offenders across all **states and union territories**, compiled by various investigative agencies.
- Notably, the platform is also designed to **facilitate cooperation and support from INTERPOL**, the international policing organization, enhancing global crime-fighting efforts.

8. Uncrewed Spacecraft Test with Liquid Propulsion System

- As part of the **Gaganyaan mission**, ISRO has announced that it is ready with a **crew module equipped with a liquid propulsion system** for an upcoming uncrewed spaceflight test.
- The Gaganyaan mission is planned to be executed in **three phases**, and ISRO is currently focusing on the **second phase**, which involves sending an **uncrewed spacecraft** into space for testing.
- For this phase, ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** has successfully completed the integration of the **liquid propulsion systems** within the crew module.
- This crew module, designed to house astronauts in future missions, will undergo testing to ensure safety, reliability, and performance under actual spaceflight conditions.

9. "SANJAY – Battlefield Surveillance System"

- On **January 24, 2025**, the **Defence Minister** inaugurated the **'SANJAY – Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)'** at the South Block in New Delhi.
- **SANJAY** is an **automated system** designed to gather and integrate inputs from **all land and aerial battlefield sensors**.
- It creates a **comprehensive real-time surveillance picture** of the battlefield by connecting these sensors through a **secure military data network** and **satellite communication infrastructure**.
- Developed using **indigenous technology**, SANJAY is a joint

effort between the **Indian Army** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

10. Indian Astronaut to Travel to the International Space Station

- **Group Captain Shubanshu Shukla**, selected by ISRO, has been officially announced by **NASA** as the astronaut who will travel to the **International Space Station (ISS)** under a collaborative mission.
- He is part of the **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** crew, which includes four astronauts scheduled to fly to the ISS by **June 2025**.
- This marks a significant step ahead of India's ambitious **Gaganyaan mission**, which plans to send Indian astronauts into space later this year.
- As a preparatory move, ISRO had earlier signed an agreement with **NASA** to send one of the Indian astronauts from the Gaganyaan program to the ISS.

11. Silicon Carbide Extraction from Simulated Lunar Soil

- Researchers from **IIT Madras** have successfully extracted **silicon carbide** from **simulated lunar soil**.
- This breakthrough could pave the way for developing **silicon carbide-based materials** to support the creation of **habitats on the Moon**.

- The Moon has two distinct types of terrain: the **plains**, known as **"Maria"** (plural of Mare), and the **highland regions**.
- The ability to extract useful materials like silicon carbide is a key step toward **in-situ resource utilization**, crucial for sustaining long-term human presence on the Moon.

12. ISRO's 100th Rocket Launch Soars into Space!

- In its **100th mission**, ISRO successfully launched the **GSLV-F15** rocket from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**, carrying a **navigation and safety guidance satellite**.
- This mission also marked the **first official launch** under the leadership of ISRO's newly appointed chairman, **V. Narayanan**, and stands as ISRO's **first launch of the year**.
- The satellite, **NVS**, weighs **2,250 kg** and has a **lifespan of 10 years**.
- It is designed to work in coordination with other satellites for **orbital positioning**, **land and maritime management**, **location-based services in mobile devices**, and **aerospace traffic monitoring**.
- ISRO officials stated that the satellite will also play a critical role in **providing accurate data during disaster situations**.

13. Historic Journey to the International Space Station

- **John McFall (43)** has been granted approval by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to travel to the **International Space Station (ISS)**, becoming the **world's first astronaut with a physical disability** to do so.
- In **2022**, ESA selected McFall as the **first-ever para-astronaut** in the world.
- Following this milestone, he is set to **live and work aboard the ISS for up to six months**, marking a significant step toward **inclusive human spaceflight**.

14. World's Largest Propellant Mixing Machine Developed by ISRO

- In a major step toward self-reliance in space technology, **ISRO** has successfully developed the **world's largest vertical propellant mixing machine**, weighing **10 tonnes**.
- This state-of-the-art equipment is used to **mix solid propellants** for rockets, a critical step in the launch vehicle manufacturing process.
- The machine was developed in collaboration with the **Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI)** in **Bengaluru**.
- This achievement strengthens India's capability in producing advanced launch systems **indigenously**, boosting efforts toward **Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)** in space exploration.

15. India's First Hyperloop Test Track Ready

- In collaboration with the **Ministry of Railways**, **IIT Madras** has completed **India's first Hyperloop test track**, which is now ready for trials.
- **Hyperloop** refers to an **ultra-high-speed transportation system** designed for long-distance travel.
- It operates by propelling pods through **vacuum tubes** using **electromagnetic technology**, eliminating air resistance, and achieving speeds of up to **Mach 1** (approximately **761 miles per hour or 1,225 km/h**).
- Hyperloop trains can travel **twice as fast as airplanes** while consuming **less energy**.
- The innovative **422-meter-long test track** was built at the **Discovery Satellite Campus in Thaiyur**, near Chennai, in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways and a startup company.

16. SPHEREx Space Telescope

- NASA has planned the **SPHEREx** mission (**Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer**) to create the most **comprehensive map of the entire sky** ever made.

- Unlike telescopes like the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**, which target specific cosmic objects, **SPHEREx** is designed to **survey the whole sky**, capturing a broad cosmic picture.
- It can capture images in **102 infrared wavelengths**, enabling it to reveal details previously unseen.
- This powerful observatory will provide **invaluable data** on topics ranging from the **formation of galaxies and stars** to the **building blocks of life in our Milky Way galaxy**.

17. AI Kosha

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, under the **India AI Mission**, has launched **AI Kosha**, a **non-personal dataset repository**, in collaboration with the **GPU Access Portal**.
- **AI Kosha** is designed to serve as a **centralized repository** for **datasets, tools, and AI models**.
- Its objectives include:
  - Enhancing **access to diverse datasets and AI models** from multiple sources.
  - Accelerating **AI research and innovation** in India.
  - Supporting the **development of AI solutions** through shared tools and frameworks.
  - Showcasing **real-world use cases** to promote the adoption of new AI applications.

18. Gene Bank

- The **Prime Minister** announced plans to **expand India's gene bank** to protect the country's genetic resources.
- The aim of this initiative is to ensure **genetic diversity and food security** for **future generations**.
- A **gene bank** is a repository that **stores genetic materials** such as **seeds and pollen** collected from various plant species.
- It plays a crucial role in **preserving essential plant varieties** for long-term agricultural sustainability.
- India's **first gene bank** was established in **1996 in New Delhi** by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR)**.
- To further safeguard **India's agricultural biodiversity**, the **Finance Ministry** has announced the establishment of a **second national gene bank** in the **2025–26 Union Budget**.

19. e-Shram Portal

- The **e-Shram portal** was launched in **2021** to create a **comprehensive national**

database of unorganized **workers** in India.

- Workers registered on this portal are issued a **12-digit unique identification number** called the **e-Shram card**.

- If a registered worker suffers an accident leading to **death or permanent disability**, they are eligible for **₹2 lakh** compensation; for **partial disability**, they are eligible for **₹1 lakh**.

- The main objective is to register **38 crore unorganized sector workers**, including **construction laborers, migrant workers, street vendors, and domestic workers**.

20. Anti-Counterfeit Ink

- Scientists from the **Nano Science and Technology Institute** and **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre** have developed a new **security ink** using **Strontium Bismuth Fluoride (Sr_2BiF_7) nanoparticles**.

- Currently available fluorescent inks are visible only under **ultraviolet (UV) light** or **infrared (IR) light**, but not both.

- The newly developed ink is unique because it **glows under both UV and near-infrared light**, enhancing its security features.

21. 'Pratibimb' Software

- **'Pratibimb'** is a GIS (Geographic Information System)-based software launched in 2024 by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- **Purpose:** To assist enforcement agencies, including state police forces, by mapping cybercriminals in real-time and helping dismantle their networks.

- To facilitate data sharing and analysis about cybercriminals, another software called **'Samanvaya'** has been introduced to enable coordination among law enforcement and other agencies.

22. Launch of the world's first commercial space surveillance satellite 'SCOT-1'

- 'SCOT-1,' the world's first commercial space surveillance satellite, developed by an Indian startup, has begun operations by capturing and sending images of South America.

- This SCOT satellite is designed to monitor even small objects as small as 5 cm orbiting the Earth in space.

23. Presence of water-ice outside the lunar polar regions

- New analysis of data obtained from one of the instruments on

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Chandrayaan-3 indicates strong evidence of the presence of water-ice in areas beyond the lunar polar regions.

24. "Agri Stack" Integrating Land Records

- Efforts are underway across Tamil Nadu to integrate all land records of farmers through the "Agri Stack" website.
- These efforts are being carried out by the Department of Agriculture Welfare.
- Farmers' details are uploaded to this website using their Aadhaar card, Aadhaar-linked mobile number, land patta, and chitta documents.

25. Central Government Approves Chandrayaan-5 Mission

- The central government has granted approval for the Chandrayaan-5 mission, which will be conducted in collaboration with Japan.
- The Chandrayaan-5 mission aims to conduct comprehensive research on the Moon. Unlike Chandrayaan-3, it will not carry a small rover. Instead, a larger rover weighing 250 kg will be sent to extensively study the lunar surface.
- ISRO has targeted to complete the Chandrayaan-4 mission by 2027. This mission plans to collect samples from the lunar surface.
- ISRO has planned to complete the Chandrayaan-5 and

Chandrayaan-6 missions within the next decade.

26. Sunita Williams Returns to Earth

- After spending 286 days at the International Space Station, astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, along with two other astronauts, safely returned to Earth aboard the Dragon-9 spacecraft.

27. MRI Technology

- India has developed its first indigenous MRI machine.
- It is scheduled to be installed at Delhi AIIMS hospital for trials by October.
- This reduces dependence on imports by 80-85%.
- This technological advancement aims to achieve self-reliance in medical technology and is being promoted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

28. 'ZooWIN' Website to Monitor Availability of Rabies and Snakebite Vaccines: Introduced by Central Government

- The government has launched a digital platform called ZooWIN, designed to monitor and manage the real-time availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccines (ARV) and Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) across the country.
- Similar to the 'Co-WIN' platform introduced for the

COVID-19 vaccination program and the 'U-WIN' portal for vaccination programs for pregnant women and children, the 'ZooWIN' website will function in the same way.

- This portal has been developed by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

29. KAVACH 5.0 System

- The Ministry of Railways has announced the implementation of KAVACH 5.0 to improve suburban rail services in Mumbai.
- To prevent accidents caused by human error, stop trains from passing signals at danger, and prevent overspeeding during critical times, Indian Railways has developed an automatic train protection system called 'KAVACH' (Rail Collision Avoidance System) domestically.

30. Semaglutide

- Recent studies have found that oral semaglutide (Rybelsus) reduces the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cardiac death by 14%.
- Semaglutide is a GLP-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1RA), approved in 2021 for weight management in individuals with obesity and type 2 diabetes, aiming to achieve

significant reduction in heart risks.

- This trial focused on reducing major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) in patients with type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and chronic kidney disease (CKD).
- Compared to placebo, oral semaglutide was found to significantly reduce MACE in the study.

31. Genome India Project

- This is a national initiative launched in January 2020 to map the genetic diversity of India's population.
- It is a collaborative project supported and funded by the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology.
- The project aims to identify the genetic variations across the Indian population through large-scale genome sequencing.

32. Long-Range Glide Bomb Test

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted tests called 'Gaurav' from April 8 to 10, 2025, launched from an SU-30 MKI aircraft.
- The weapon is designed to accurately strike ground targets from beyond the range of enemy air defense systems.

33. NASA's Curiosity Rover

- Recently, NASA's Curiosity Rover discovered carbon-bearing minerals on Mars.

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- This is the first definitive evidence of the carbon cycle on the Red Planet.
- The rover identified a carbonate mineral called siderite, containing carbon and oxygen, within sulfate-rich layers of Martian rocks.
- This is the first time such a mineral has been found on Mars.

34. James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

- Recently, scientists have found tentative but strong evidence of potential alien life on a distant exoplanet named K2-18b, located 124 light-years away in the constellation Leo.
- A research team from Cambridge University studied the planet's atmosphere and detected chemical signatures of gases such as dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS).

35. Perovskite Solar Cells

- Perovskite Solar Cells (PSCs) are a type of photovoltaic (PV) technology that uses crystal structures called perovskites to convert sunlight into electricity.
- These crystals share the structure of calcium titanate ($CaTiO_3$) mineral and can be engineered to have a wide range of optical, electrical, and conductive properties.

36. Pulsar Galaxy: A Galaxy with Nine Rings

- Using the Hubble Space Telescope, a team of researchers recently discovered the Pulsar Galaxy (LEDA 1313424).
- It is nearly 2.5 times larger than the Milky Way and could evolve into a large low surface brightness (GLSB) galaxy in the future.
- This galaxy has nine rings.

37. India's First Full-Stack Quantum Computer 'Sindhu'

- On World Quantum Day (April 14), Bengaluru-based QpiAI introduced India's first full-stack quantum computer called QpiAI-Sindhu.
- It is the first fully integrated quantum computer system entirely developed in India.
- The system includes both hardware and software, ranging from quantum processors to AI-driven application tools that efficiently run quantum applications.
- Applications: It has potential uses in life sciences (drug discovery, genomics), materials science (designing new materials), operations, and infrastructure (path and supply chain optimization).

38. Operation Hawk 2025

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched Operation Hawk to successfully dismantle cybercrime networks involved in online child sexual

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exploitation with international links.

- Previously, to identify accused individuals involved in online child sexual exploitation cases with international connections, CBI had initiated Operation Carbon in 2021 and Operation Make Chakra in 2022.

39. ECINET: ECI's One-Stop Election Technology Platform

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced ECINET, a single-point access platform designed for voters, election officials, political parties, and other stakeholders such as civil society.
- To ensure data accuracy, only authorized election officials will be allowed to enter data into ECINET.
- This new initiative is expected to benefit nearly 1 billion voters and support the entire election management process.

40. High Altitude Platform Station (HAPS)

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the first flight test of the High-Altitude Platform Station (HAPS) at Shiopur in Madhya Pradesh.
- The HAPS was developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment located in Agra.

41. Genetically Edited Rice Varieties

- India has released its first genetically edited rice varieties, **'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)'** and **'Pusa DST Rice 1'**, aimed at improving yield, climate resilience, and nutrient use efficiency without introducing foreign DNA.
- These varieties were developed by ICAR using advanced **CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology**.

Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN) Technology

- This gene-editing technique uses enzymes called nucleases to introduce precise changes in the DNA sequence.

42. EOS-09

- EOS-09 is an Earth observation satellite designed to enhance India's monitoring and imaging capabilities.
- EOS-09 is equipped with a C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).
- The SAR technology enables the satellite to capture high-resolution images of the Earth's surface regardless of weather conditions or daylight.

43. BrahMos

- To enhance India's missile production capability, the Defence Minister inaugurated the BrahMos integration and testing facility in Lucknow via virtual mode.

BrahMos Missile

- Developed through a joint effort by DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia).
- Name origin: A combination of the names of the Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers.
- Inducted into Indian Armed Forces: Navy (2005), Army (2007), and Indian Air Force (2017).

ENVIRONMENT

1. Tungsten Mine near Madurai

- On **November 7, 2024**, the **Ministry of Mines** awarded **tungsten mining rights** to **Hindustan Zinc Limited** through auction.
- One of the selected sites is located in **Melur**, near **Madurai**, Tamil Nadu — a region known for its **rich biodiversity**.
- The **Nayakkarpatti Tungsten Block**, covering an area of **2,015.51 hectares**, is known for **primary tungsten mineral scheelite** deposits.
- The **Periyar canal** has been identified as the primary **water source** for mining operations.
- This mining area is **ecologically connected** to the **biodiversity heritage sites** of **Arittapatti** and **Meenakshipuram**, which are recognized for their **environmental and cultural significance**.

About Tungsten

- **Tungsten** is a **rare, heavy, and dense metal** with the **highest melting point** of all metals (**3,422°C**).
- It is valued for its:
  - **Hardness**
  - **Resistance to heat, corrosion, and wear**
- Due to **limited domestic production**, **India imports a significant portion** of its tungsten requirements.

2. India's Emissions Report

- In **January 2025**, India submitted its latest **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory**, detailing its emission levels and the **efforts taken to control and reduce them**.
- Between **2005 and 2020**, India achieved a **36% reduction in emission intensity of its GDP**.

3. Chhattisgarh – First Indian State to Integrate Forest Ecosystem into Green GDP

- For the **first time in India**, **Chhattisgarh** has introduced an innovative framework that incorporates the **environmental services of its forests** into the calculation of its **Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)**.
- **Green GDP** is an **alternative measure of economic growth** that includes the **environmental costs of economic activities**.

4. Miyawaki Technique

- In preparation for the **Mahakumbh Mela 2025**, **dense forests covering around 56,000 square meters** have been created across **Prayagraj** using the **Miyawaki technique**.
- Developed in the **1970s** by renowned **Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki**, this method is a **revolutionary approach to growing dense forests in limited spaces**.
- Often referred to as the **"potted garden method"**, it involves:
    - **Planting trees and shrubs very close to each other**, which **accelerates growth**.

5. 2024 – Hottest Year on Record

- According to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the year **2024** has been recorded as the **hottest year in India** since temperature records began in **1901**.
- The temperature data and global climate trends were officially released on **January 10, 2024**, by the **Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)**.

6. Tamil Nadu's Ramsar Sites Increase to 20

- The number of **Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu** has increased to **20**, making it the **state with the highest number of Ramsar wetlands in India**.
- On the occasion of **World Wetlands Day**, four new sites were designated as Ramsar wetlands:
    - **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary** (Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu)
    - **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary** (Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu)
    - **Udhwa Lake** (Jharkhand)
    - **Heshrho Wetland Complex** (Sikkim)
- **Ramanathapuram district alone** now hosts **5 Ramsar sites**, the highest in any Indian district.
- With these additions, the **total number of Ramsar sites in India has reached 89**.
- Notably, **19 out of Tamil Nadu's 20 Ramsar sites** were declared **after the launch of the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission in 2021**.
- **Earlier Ramsar Sites in Ramanathapuram:** Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Sitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary.
- The **Ramsar Convention** was adopted on **February 2, 1971**, in **Ramsar, Iran**, to protect wetlands of

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international importance, especially as habitats for waterfowl.

7. **Hydrocarbon Exploration in the Gulf of Mannar**
   - The **Government of India** has included approximately **10,000 square kilometers** of **shallow offshore area** in the **Gulf of Mannar (GoM)**, Tamil Nadu, in its latest **hydrocarbon exploration tender**.
   - The Gulf of Mannar is part of the **Laccadive Sea** in the **Indian Ocean**, situated between **Southeast India** and **Northwest Sri Lanka**.
   - It encompasses **21 islands** spread across this region, known for **rich marine biodiversity**.
   - The **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** is: The **first marine biosphere reserve** in **South and Southeast Asia**.

8. **Government's Decision to Increase Ethanol Blending in Petrol to Over 20%**
   - The **Indian government** has decided to increase the **ethanol blending in petrol** to over **20%**.
   - The target of **19.6% ethanol blending** in petrol has already been achieved.
   - Ethanol is primarily sourced from **local sugar mills**

9. **Number of Tiger Reserves in the Country Increased to 58!**
   - With the newly declared Madhav Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, the number of tiger reserves in the country has increased to 58.
   - This becomes the 9th tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
   - Wildlife (Protection) Act – 1972
   - "Project Tiger" – 1973

   Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu:
   - Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
   - Anamalai Tiger Reserve
   - Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
   - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
   - Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve

10. **Renewable Energy in India's Power Generation**
    - The central government has announced that the share of renewable energy in the country's total power generation has reached 22.49%.
    - India's solar power generation capacity, which was only 2.82 GW in 2014, has seen a significant rise, reaching 100 GW in 2025.
    - At the 26th Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow in 2021, India committed to installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, and the country is

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making rapid progress towards achieving this goal.

11. 20 Most Air Polluted Cities in the World

- IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, has released the World Air Quality Report (2024).
- Out of the 20 cities with the worst air pollution in the world, 13 are from India.
- Delhi ranks first among the most polluted capitals globally.
- In the list of the most polluted countries globally, India, which was ranked 3rd in 2023, has moved up to 4th place in 2024.

12. Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

- The Supreme Court has directed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to conduct a survey of the entire Agasthyamala biosphere reserve to identify non-forest activities and encroachments.
- This ruling aims at recovering pristine forest areas and protecting tiger habitats and wildlife sanctuaries.
- The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is located in the Western Ghats of South India, along the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border.

- In 2016, it was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

13. India's First Climate Change Observatory

- In a significant milestone in global climate science, India has inaugurated the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre at Nathatop in Jammu & Kashmir.
- This centre is located at an altitude of 2,250 meters above sea level in Nathatop.
- Due to the presence of clean air and minimal pollution, it provides an ideal location for high-precision atmospheric and climate measurements.

14. Global Wind Report 2025

- The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) Global Wind Report 2025 warns that the planned wind power capacity will only meet 77% of the 2030 targets.
- In 2024, 117 GW of new wind energy capacity was added globally, compared to 116.6 GW in 2023.
- China led the global wind market, contributing 70% of the new capacity in 2024.
- The United States, Brazil, India, and Germany

followed as other leading markets.

Status of Wind Energy in India

- As of March 31, 2025, India has achieved a total installed wind energy capacity of 50.04 gigawatts.
- In the 2024–25 fiscal year, India increased its wind energy capacity by 4.15 gigawatts, up from 3.25 gigawatts in the 2023–24 fiscal year.
- The National Wind Energy Institute estimates that Gujarat has a potential of 36 GW, and Tamil Nadu has approximately 35 GW of offshore wind energy potential.

15. **NEERI to Study Industrial Impact on the Taj Mahal**

- The Supreme Court has directed the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to study the impact of glass industries on the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Taj Mahal is a white marble mausoleum located in Agra, India.
- It was built in 1632 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (reigned 1628–1658).
- It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

POLITY

1. State–Governor Conflict

- Under **Article 200** of the Constitution, the Governor has the following four powers concerning a state bill:
    - Grant assent to the bill
    - Withhold assent to the bill
    - Reserve the bill for the consideration of the President
    - Return the bill for reconsideration
- Under **Article 201**, the President of India has the following powers regarding a state bill that has been reserved for consideration:
    - Grant assent to the bill
    - Withhold assent to the bill
    - Return the bill for reconsideration
- If the bill is passed again by the state legislature after reconsideration, it must be sent back to the President for assent.

Supreme Court Judgment

- In November 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that the Governor does not have the authority to "obstruct the ordinary legislative process of state legislatures."

2. Supreme Court Ruling on CBI and State Government Consent

- The Supreme Court has ruled that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) does **not** require the prior consent of the state government to file a case against a central government employee working in that state under a central law.
- However, for conducting a **CBI investigation**, the agency must obtain the **consent of the concerned state government** in accordance with the nature of the case.

3. University Grants Commission (UGC) Draft Regulations 2025

- The UGC has released draft regulations aimed at expanding eligibility criteria for academic positions and Vice-Chancellors in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- Candidates applying for the post of **Vice-Chancellor** must have a **minimum of 10 years of experience** in a senior academic position

and should have made **significant academic contributions**.

- The **Vice-Chancellor** will be selected by a committee comprising the **Chancellor (or equivalent authority)**, a nominee of the **UGC**, and a nominee from the **highest governing body of the university**.

- Candidates with a **postgraduate degree in engineering or technology** (with at least 55% marks) are allowed to apply for **Assistant Professor positions without clearing the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)**.

4. Commenting on a Woman's Body is Sexual Harassment – Kerala High Court

- The **Kerala High Court** ruled that **sexually commenting on a woman's body** is considered a **punishable offence under sexual harassment laws**.

- Relevant Legal Provisions:
  - **Section 354A and Section 509** of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

5. Supreme Court Reiterates Need to Exclude 'Creamy Layer' from Reservation Benefits

- The **Supreme Court** has once again emphasized that the decision to **exclude the 'creamy layer'**—those who have already benefited and advanced—from reservation benefits **must be made by the government and legislature**.

- In its judgment, the Court stated that **states have the authority** to create **sub-classifications within Scheduled Castes** for the upliftment of those who are **most socially and educationally backward**.

6. Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura Statehood Day

- Every year on **January 21**, the northeastern states of **Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura** celebrate their **Statehood Day**, marking the historic occasion when they were granted full state status under the **North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act of 1971**.

- The **Northeastern region** of India is commonly referred to as the **"Seven Sisters"**, comprising the following seven states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

7. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Implemented in Uttarakhand

- In **January 2025**, **Uttarakhand** became the **first state in independent**

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India to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.

- On **May 27, 2022**, a **committee of experts** was formed under the leadership of **former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai** to draft the UCC.
- The UCC in Uttarakhand applies to **all residents except the tribal communities**.

8. Next Chief Election Commissioner: Search Committee Formed

- The central government has constituted a three-member search committee, headed by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, to select the next Chief Election Commissioner.
- The committee includes the Union Finance Secretary and the Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) as members.

Supreme Court Case Background

- On March 2, 2023, the Supreme Court ordered the formation of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- In response, the central government introduced a new law altering the composition of the selection committee. As per the new law, the committee would include the Prime Minister, a Union Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- Under this new law, the government has already filled two vacant Election Commissioner posts.
- For the first time under this new legislation, the next Chief Election Commissioner will be appointed.
- Accordingly, on January 17, 2025, the central government formed a three-member search committee led by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

9. Right to Information (RTI) Act

- Under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Government of Tamil Nadu has issued a directive stating that all applications and the related action-taken files must be preserved for a period of five years.

10. Places of Worship Act Case

- The Places of Worship Act, 1991, states that all places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947, must be maintained in their original form without any alteration.

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- The Act prohibits the conversion of any place of worship into a place of worship for a different religion.
- Additionally, the Act prohibits the filing of any new case in any court regarding the conversion of such places of worship into places of worship of another religion.

11. Multilingualism in India

- According to the 2011 Census data analysis, 26.02% of Indians speak two languages, while 7.1% speak three languages.
- In Goa, 77.21% of people speak two languages, and 50.82% speak three languages (Goa is the only state where the percentage of people speaking three languages exceeds 50%).
- Other states with high multilingualism: Arunachal Pradesh (64.03%), Sikkim (63.71%), Nagaland (62.15%), and Maharashtra (51.1%).
- 43.63% of Indians consider Hindi their mother tongue.
- In five states/Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu and Kerala, less than 1% of the population speaks Hindi.
- In South India, Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana, according to the 2011 Census) had the highest percentage of Hindi speakers at 3.69%.

12. Constitution Article 136

- The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, stated that Article 136 of the Constitution should only be used by the Supreme Court in specific circumstances. However, its increasing usage is not considered appropriate.
- Under Article 136 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court is granted special powers, which are referred to as Special Leave Petition (SLP).
- **Article 136**: The Supreme Court, at its discretion, may grant special leave to appeal against any judgment, order, decree, sentence, or decision passed by any court or tribunal within India, except military courts.
- Under Article 136, individuals can seek permission to appeal against the decisions of any court in the country, including high courts (except military courts), and the Supreme Court has the authority to accept or reject such petitions.
- The decision to grant or reject such a petition is

entirely at the discretion of the Supreme Court.

13. Visually Impaired Individuals Qualified to Be Judges

- The **Supreme Court** has ruled that individuals with **visual impairments** are eligible to become judges.
- To ensure **equal rights** for all citizens, the Court emphasized that any discrimination that excludes persons with disabilities must be prohibited to guarantee their fundamental rights.
- The Court further stated that such exclusions are **contrary to the provisions** of the Constitution, particularly **Articles 14, 15, 16, and 21**.
- **Tamil Nadu** and **Rajasthan** have already appointed **visually impaired individuals** as judges.
- Notably, in **2009**, **D. Chakravarthi** became the first visually impaired person to be appointed as a **judicial officer** in **Tamil Nadu**.

14. Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024

- As part of efforts to support the growing shipping industry in the country, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the Cargo Transportation Bill for 2025. The aim of the Bill is to update and simplify the legal framework for shipping documents.
- The Bill has been introduced to replace the colonial-era Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856.

15. The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- In a move to further enhance the independent functioning of the Railway Board, the central government introduced the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which has been approved by the Rajya Sabha.
- The Bill was introduced and approved in the Lok Sabha in December of the previous year.
- The Bill aims to repeal the 1905 Railway Board Act and bring the Railway Board under the 1989 Railway Act. This will transfer the responsibility for the appointment of Board Chairpersons and members, as well as their educational qualifications, tenure, and conditions of service, to the central government.

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16. The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024

- The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 aims to amend the current law governing oil and gas exploration and production, and to separate petroleum operations from mining activities. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 12, 2025.
- The primary objective of this amendment is to increase investment in the oil wells sector.

17. Failure of the Motion Against the Speaker

- In a vote conducted in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the opposition's no-confidence motion against the Speaker, Appavu, was defeated.

Section 179: Resignation, Removal, and Vacancy of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker

- A Speaker or Deputy Speaker must resign from their position if they are no longer a member of the legislature.
- At any time, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker can resign from their position by submitting a signed letter of resignation.
- A Speaker or Deputy Speaker can also be removed from their position through a resolution passed by a majority of the members of the legislature.

18. New Citizenship Bill

- In an effort to curb illegal immigration in India, The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill stipulates that anyone entering or staying in India using fake passports or visas, or leaving the country illegally, will face a maximum sentence of 7 years in prison and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh.

19. Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

- In an effort to ensure swift and timely justice in cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs) scheme has been extended until March 2026.
- In 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the fast-tracking of POCSO cases, leading to the launch of the FTSC scheme on October 2, 2019.

20. Representation for Persons with Disabilities in Local Governance

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- In Tamil Nadu, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has announced that a legislative provision will be introduced in the current session of the Legislative Assembly to ensure appropriate representation for persons with disabilities in all types of local governance bodies through a nomination process.

- It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu has already provided a 50% reservation for women in local bodies under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

- In 1996, women were first given 33% reservation in local bodies, which was later increased to 50% in 2016.

- In 1989, Tamil Nadu implemented the first-ever reservation policy in India, providing 30% reservation for women in government jobs and employment.

- In 1990, Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to enact a law granting women equal property rights, marking a significant step in women's legal empowerment.

21. Salary Hike for Members of Parliament (MPs)

- The central government has announced a 24% salary hike for MPs, effective from April 1, 2025.

- A Member of the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha will now receive ₹1.24 lakh per month, up from the previous ₹1 lakh.

- The daily allowance has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.

- The monthly pension for former MPs has been raised from ₹25,000 to ₹31,000.

- During their term, MPs are provided rent-free housing in New Delhi.

22. Boiler Bill

- The Boiler Bill, 2024, introduced as a replacement for a century-old law, has been passed in the Lok Sabha.

- This new legislation replaces the Boilers Act of 1923 and aims to:
  - Regulate the use of boilers,
  - Protect lives and property from the risks of steam boiler explosions, and
  - Ensure uniformity in the boiler registration process.

23. Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Passed

- The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed in the Rajya Sabha

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through a voice vote on March 25.

- The amendments have been made to strengthen the efficiency of rescue operations by states during times of disaster.
- The original Disaster Management Act of 2005 faced challenges in effective implementation by state governments. Based on feedback and recommendations received from the states, necessary amendments have been introduced in the Act.

24. 2% Increase in Dearness Allowance for Central Government Employees

- The Cabinet has decided to increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees by 2 percent.
- As a result, the DA will rise from 53% to 55%.

25. Forcing Virginity Tests is Illegal: Chhattisgarh High Court

- The Chhattisgarh High Court has stated that compelling women to undergo virginity tests violates Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Article 21 guarantees the right to life, personal liberty, and the right to live with dignity.

- The court emphasized that this right is especially important for women and reminded that Article 21 is a fundamental part of basic rights.

26. Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The central government has reintroduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Parliament.
- The bill removes the concept of "deemed waqf," meaning that properties continuously used as waqf (such as mosques) will now require official documents (waqf-nama) to be recognized as waqf properties.
- Instead of the Survey Commissioner, the bill proposes that District Collectors or other senior officials be appointed to oversee the audit of waqf properties.
- It allows the appointment of non-Muslim chief executive officers and members in state-level waqf boards.
- The bill proposes to repeal Section 107 of the 1995 Act and amend the Limitation Act (1963) to apply to waqf properties.
- This amendment permits a person who has held waqf property unlawfully for more than 12 years to claim ownership through adverse possession.

27. President's Rule in Manipur

- Parliament has passed the formal resolution to impose President's Rule in Manipur.
- **Article 356:** If a state government is unable to function according to the Constitution, the central government can take direct control of the state administration.
- This rule is valid for six months and can be extended stepwise up to three years.
- It can be revoked by the President at any time without parliamentary approval.
- **Article 365:** If a state fails to comply with the directions issued by the Union, President's Rule can be proclaimed.
- President's Rule was first imposed in PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) in 1954 and later in Kerala in 1959.

28. Odisha Day, April 1, 2025

- Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Divas, is celebrated on April 1 to commemorate the formation of Odisha as a separate state in 1936.
- Before gaining statehood in 1936, Odisha was part of the Bengal Presidency along with Bihar and Jharkhand.
- On April 1, 1936, the British government officially separated Odisha from the Bihar and Orissa Province, granting it independent administrative status.
- Odisha was the first Indian state to be formed on a linguistic basis (even before independence).

29. Supreme Court Approval for Bills

- The Supreme Court has declared that the Governor's recommendation to the President without approving 10 bills of the Tamil Nadu government was illegal. The Court also stated that these 10 bills have become laws and are in effect.

Supreme Court Verdict Highlights:

- According to Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor cannot go beyond his constitutional powers to take independent decisions.
- The Governor does not have absolute, discretionary, or arbitrary powers.
- The Governor is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- If the Governor withholds assent to a bill sent for the first time, he must fulfill the conditions laid out in Article 200.
- The Governor cannot simply refuse to give assent. If a

bill is returned for reconsideration and then sent back, it cannot be forwarded to the President unless it differs substantially from the original bill.

- If the Governor decides to withhold assent and send a bill to the President, he must do so within one month after consulting the Council of Ministers.

- If the Governor withholds assent contrary to the advice of the Council of Ministers, he must return the bills within three months at most.

- If the bills are passed again by the State Legislature and sent back for assent, the Governor must give assent within one month.

- The Governor's decision is subject to judicial review.

- Considering the Governor delayed assent to these bills, the Supreme Court, invoking its special power under Article 142, has declared that these 10 bills became laws as soon as they were sent to the Governor.

30. Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, aimed at strengthening the coastal shipping sector.

- This bill replaces the outdated regulations under the Mercantile Marine Act, 1958, with a forward-looking, standalone law suited to India's current needs.

- According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2021, transportation contributes 10–11% of India's greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport accounting for 90%, railways 3%, and waterways less than 1%.

31. The Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, aimed at strengthening the aviation sector.

- The bill seeks to enhance legal protections for aircraft financiers and lessors in India by aligning Indian laws with international standards.

32. Online Gaming under PMLA

- Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the central government has proposed classifying online real-money gaming companies as "reporting entities."

- Earlier, in 2023, the government imposed a 28%

Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the entire amount deposited by users on real-money gaming platforms.

33. High-Level Committee to Restore State Rights: Chief Minister's Announcement

- The Chief Minister has announced the formation of a high-level committee to improve relations between the central and state governments and to restore state rights by providing necessary advice and recommendations.
- The committee is headed by former Supreme Court Judge Kurian Joseph.
- Members include Ashok Vardhan Shetty, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University and retired IAS officer, and M. Naganathan, former Deputy Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.
- The committee will study and consider the recommendations of the Rajamannar Committee (established in 1969) and other commissions on Centre-State relations, as well as various political, social, economic, and legal developments in the country since 1971.
- Without compromising national unity and integrity, the committee will recommend appropriate measures to grant states maximum autonomy in administration, legislatures, and judiciary branches.

34. Telangana Becomes First State to Implement Sub-Reservation for SCs

- Telangana state has issued a government order implementing the classification that divides the Scheduled Caste (SC) reservation into three sub-categories.
- This move follows last year's Supreme Court ruling that empowers states to provide sub-reservation within SC quotas.
- Telangana is proud to be the first state in the country to classify and implement sub-reservations for SC communities.

35. Article 355

- Part of Part XVIII (Emergency Provisions) of the Constitution.
- Article 355 mandates that "It is the duty of the Union to protect every state against external aggression and internal disturbances and to ensure that the government of every state is carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution."

36. High Courts Cannot Use Article 142 of the Constitution: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has categorically stated that High Courts are not permitted to exercise the special powers granted under Article 142 of the Constitution.
- The Court further noted that any amendment related to this must be made in the Constitution itself, and only Parliament has the authority to enact such changes.

37. Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- Recently, following a brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, in which 26 civilians were killed, India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.
- The Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan was signed on September 19, 1960, with the World Bank acting as a mediator.
- The treaty allocates the three western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—to Pakistan for unrestricted use, while India retains exclusive rights over the three eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

38. Suspension of the Shimla Agreement

- Following India's response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan announced the suspension of the Shimla Agreement of 1972.
- The Shimla Agreement was a bilateral pact signed on July 2, 1972, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.
- It was signed after the India-Pakistan war of 1971.
- The agreement paved the way for the creation of Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) and marked a decisive military victory for India.

39. Security Cabinet Committee (CCS)

- The CCS, headed by the Prime Minister, is responsible for key discussions and decisions related to security policy, expenditures, and national security matters.
- It is the highest authority for appointing officials within the national security apparatus.
- The committee was first formed in independent India

in 1947 by then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

- Along with the Prime Minister as its head, the committee usually includes the Home Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister as members.

40. Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha

- Although constitutionally recognized as a position meant to ensure impartiality and continuity in the functioning of the Lok Sabha, the post of Deputy Speaker remained vacant throughout the entire 17th Lok Sabha and has continued to remain unfilled in the 18th Lok Sabha as well.
- The Constitution does not specify a fixed time frame for the appointment of the Deputy Speaker. However, Articles 93 and 178 use terms like "shall" and "as soon as possible," making the election mandatory.
- Article 93: The Lok Sabha shall, as soon as possible, choose two members to be the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
- Article 178: Contains corresponding provisions for the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of State Legislative Assemblies.

- The date for electing the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- The opposition party has held the position of Deputy Speaker on many occasions.
- Examples include during UPA-I (2004–09), UPA-II (2009–14), and during the tenures of Prime Ministers Vajpayee (1999–2004), P.V. Narasimha Rao (1991–96), and Chandra Shekhar (1990–91).

41. Digital Access as a Part of the Fundamental Right to Life and Liberty

- In the case of *Amar Jain vs. Union of India & Others, 2025*, the Supreme Court of India ruled that inclusive digital access for e-governance and welfare schemes is an integral part of the fundamental right to life and liberty.
- Furthermore, the Court provided guidelines to make the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process more accessible for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Under Articles 21 (Right to a dignified life), 14 (Equality), 15 (Protection against discrimination), and 38 (Directive principles of state policy), it is a constitutional duty to ensure universal

digital access for vulnerable groups.

42. Maharashtra and Gujarat State Foundation Day

- On May 1, 2025, the 65th anniversary of the formation of the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat was celebrated, commemorating the historic reorganization of Bombay State on a linguistic basis in 1960.
- The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement (1956) demanded a Marathi-speaking state that included Mumbai and Vidarbha.
- The Mahagujarat Movement (1928–1950s) called for a Gujarati-speaking state that included Saurashtra and Kutch.

43. Private Member Bills (PMBs)

- The Vice President of India recently described Private Member Bills (PMBs) as "visionary, future-oriented, and a goldmine for Indian democracy."
- PMBs are legislative proposals introduced by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are not ministers, meaning they are not part of the government.
- Since independence, only 14 PMBs have been enacted and received the President's assent from both Houses of Parliament. No PMB has been enacted since 1970.
- The first Private Member Bill enacted by Parliament was the Muslim Wakf Bill in 1952, which aimed to improve the administration and management of Wakf properties.
- This led to the enactment of the Wakf Act in 1954, which was later amended as the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- The 'Rights of Transgender Persons' Bill (2014) was the first PMB passed in the Rajya Sabha in 40 years.
- This paved the way for the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

44. Caste Census in India

- The Government of India approved the inclusion of a caste census in the delayed 2021 population census.
- A caste census is the systematic collection of data regarding individuals' caste identities during the nationwide population census.
- The word "caste" is derived from the Spanish word 'casta,' meaning 'race' or 'lineage group.' Portuguese colonizers used this term in India to refer to 'jāti' (caste).

Historical Context of the Caste Census

- Between 1881 and 1931, under British rule, the caste census was a regular feature of population census exercises.
- The 1941 population census also collected caste data, but it was not published due to the outbreak of World War II.
- From the 1951 census onwards, caste data collection was limited to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) only, and caste enumeration for others was stopped. As a result, there is no reliable national data on Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and other caste groups.
- Recently, states such as Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana have conducted their own caste censuses.

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HISTORY AND INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

1. A Century Since the Discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization

- The Indus Valley Civilization was first brought to the world's attention on September 20, 1924.
- It was announced in *The Illustrated London News* by Sir John Marshall, the then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Until then, many believed that Aryan and Sanskrit origins were the foundation of Indian civilization. Sir John Marshall's research changed this perception.
- He uncovered significant findings related to the Indus Valley Civilization, challenging existing historical narratives and opening new perspectives.
- To encourage further research into the Indus script and help scholars gain a clear understanding of the Indus Valley writing system, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced a reward of one million US dollars (approximately ₹8.5 crore) for any individual or organization that successfully deciphers it.

- The Chief Minister also released a research publication titled 'Indus Signs and Graffiti Marks of Tamil Nadu: A Morphological Study'
- A statue of Sir John Marshall, to be built at a cost of ₹50 lakh, was laid by the Chief Minister as a mark of respect.

2. Iron Age Began in Tamil Land: Chief Minister's Evidence-Based Announcement

- The Chief Minister officially announced, with supporting evidence, that iron smelting technology was introduced in Tamil land as early as 5,300 years ago.
- He released a book titled *"The Antiquity of Iron."*
- Foundation stones were laid for the open-air museums at Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Keeladi.
- Excavation Sites: Maangadu (Salem), Keelnamandi (Tiruvannamalai), Mayiladumpaarai (Krishnagiri), Adichanallur and Sivagalai (Thoothukudi)
- Iron artifacts were recovered from excavation pits in Mayiladumpaarai, Krishnagiri district, confirming that iron was in

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use in Tamil Nadu as early as 2172 BCE.

- Burial sites in Adichanallur, Thoothukudi district, yielded iron swords, knives, spears, arrowheads, and tridents.
- Scientific analysis of these artifacts has pushed back the date of iron usage in Tamil Nadu to around 3000 BCE.

3. Manapparai Murukku

- To further honor the Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged *Manapparai Murukku*, a special postal cover has been released by the Postal Department in January 2025.

4. Terracotta Bowl Found in Vembakottai Excavation

- The third phase of excavation near Vijayakarisalkulam in Vembakottai, Virudhunagar district, has been ongoing since June 18 of last year.
- In this phase, over 3,400 ancient artifacts have been unearthed, including gold coins, copper coins, terracotta figurines, chess pieces, glass beads, circular discs, and conch shell bangles.
- Notably, lead was found for the first time at a depth of 102 cm.
- At a depth of 2.04 meters, a *bell made of gold* was

discovered. The bell measures 6 mm in circumference, 4.7 mm in diameter, and weighs 22 grams.

- So far, seven gold artifacts have been found in the Vembakottai excavation, which is a significant discovery.

5. "Tamil Nadu – The Healthcare Capital of India!"

- Today, Tamil Nadu stands as the healthcare capital of India.
- This status has been achieved through the establishment of medical colleges in every district, government hospitals in every city, primary health centers in every village, multi-specialty hospitals in major cities, a life-saving medical insurance scheme, and the 108-ambulance service.
- The state's comprehensive healthcare infrastructure has significantly elevated its medical services.
- The *"Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam"* scheme has shown care for the well-being of millions in Tamil Nadu, helping to extend their lifespan.
- The *"Innuir Kaappom – Nammai Kaakkum 48"* initiative has been saving countless lives and

continues to bring peace and security to those individuals and their families.

6. Ilaiyaraaja's Milestone with Symphony Performance in London

- Ilaiyaraaja has achieved the remarkable feat of being the **first composer from the Asian continent** to compose and perform a symphony.
- With this accomplishment, he now stands alongside legendary symphonic composers such as **Mozart**, **Beethoven**, and **Tchaikovsky**.
- A symphony is a complex musical composition that combines various instruments played simultaneously to create a harmonious orchestral piece.

7. 'Tamil 99' Keyboard Training for Typing Students

- As per a government order issued by the Department of Information Technology and the directive of the Director of Tamil Virtual Academy, the **'Tamil 99' keyboard** is the **only officially recognized Tamil typing keyboard** by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Therefore, all technical training institutes in Tamil Nadu must provide Tamil typing training using the Tamil 99 keyboard.
- The InScript keyboard, approved by the Central Government, is the standard keyboard layout for 12 Indian languages including Bengali, Devanagari, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Odia, and Telugu.
- To address the need for a Tamil-specific layout, the late Chief Minister **M. Karunanidhi** convened a group of Tamil scholars and introduced the **'Tamil 99' keyboard** during the **TamilNet 99** conference, effectively resolving the keyboard standardization issue.

Tamil Internet Conference

- The **first Tamil Internet Conference** was held on **May 17–18, 1997** in **Singapore**, led by the efforts of Prof. **N. Govindasamy** from Nanyang Technological University. It was known as **TamilNet 97**.
- The **second conference** was held in **Chennai** on **February 7–8, 1999**, in the presence of the then Chief Minister **M. Karunanidhi**, and was officially titled **TamilNet 99 (World Tamil Internet Conference)**.

- The **21st Tamil Internet Conference** took place in **2022** at **Tamil University, Thanjavur**.

'KaniTamil 24' conference

- To explore the role of Tamil in emerging technologies, promote new ideas, and recognize young talents, the **'KaniTamil 24' conference** conference was conducted by the **Tamil Virtual Academy** on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu from **February 8 to 10, 2024**, in **Chennai**.

8. Logo Controversy

- In the Tamil Nadu Budget Report logo, the **word 'ரு'** was used instead of the **official rupee symbol '₹'**.
- The term *'Rupee'* is derived from the Sanskrit word *'Rupya'*, which means *'made of silver'* or *'well-wrought silver coin'*.
- This word has been used for centuries in Tamil trade and literature, and even today, *'Rupee'* is the standard term for currency in **Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka**.
- However, the **'₹' symbol** is internationally recognized as the official representation of the Indian rupee and serves as India's identity in global financial transactions.
- The **official rupee symbol was introduced in 2010**, and it was **designed by a Tamilian, D. Udaya Kumar**.

9. Release of the Documentary Book: "Tamil Financial Administration – Antiquity and Continuity"

- The book *Thamizhar Nithi Nirvagam: Thonmaiyum Thodarchiyum (Financial Management of the Tamils: Antiquity and Continuity)* has been released as a comprehensive historical documentation of the financial administrative practices of Tamils.
- It covers the evolution of Tamil financial systems from the **Sangam era to the era of social justice**.
- The book explores topics such as **ancient trade practices**, **taxation methods**, **colonial-era financial administration**, and **modern Tamil Nadu's budget reports**, offering in-depth analysis and insights into the continuity and sophistication of Tamil fiscal governance through time.

10. Statue of Sir John Hubert Marshall, Who Revealed the Indus Valley Civilization

- The Chief Minister unveiled the statue of **Sir John Hubert Marshall**, the archaeologist who brought

the **Indus Valley Civilization** to light.

- Sir John Hubert Marshall became the **Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1902**, at the young age of **26**.
- On **September 20, 1924**, he officially announced the discovery of the historically significant **Indus Valley Civilization** to the world.
- During his tenure as Director-General, **British archaeologist Alexander Rea** carried out **excavations at Adichanallur**, further contributing to India's archaeological heritage.

11. Comparative Etymological Dictionary of Tamil and Indo-European Languages

- In the Tamil Nadu Budget for the year 2022–2023, it was announced that in order to establish the **antiquity and refinement of the Tamil language**, it is essential to conduct **scientific linguistic research** exploring Tamil's relationship with other world languages.
- As part of this initiative, a project was launched to develop a **Comparative Etymological Dictionary** between **Tamil and Indo-European languages**.

- A team of Tamil etymology experts was formed to carry out this research, under the supervision of the **Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation**, led by **Chief Editor Dr. K. Arasendiran**, starting from **July 2022**.
- The team consists of **20 scholars**, including the chief editor. The government allocated **₹8 crore** to implement this project.
- Based on this initiative, the **general preface** and the **first volume** of the *Comparative Etymological Dictionary of Tamil and Indo-European Languages* were officially released by the **Chief Minister at the Secretariat in Chennai**.

12. Soil Testing Begins for Dredging of Pamban Canal

- To facilitate the **dredging of the Pamban Canal**, a team of experts from **IIT** is currently conducting **sub-sea soil quality studies**, under the initiative of the **Tamil Nadu Department of Minor Ports**.
- The **Pamban Port** is one of the **oldest ports in India**. Though surrounded by the sea in the 15th century, the area between **Pamban and Mandapam** was once traversable even by horse,

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with a natural canal-like formation.

- In **1480 CE**, a **major cyclone** led to the natural widening of the canal between the **Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait**, significantly shaping what is now known as the **Pamban Canal**.
- This event caused **Pamban and Mandapam** to be separated, transforming **Rameswaram into an island**.
- During British rule, the **first official dredging of the Pamban Canal** was undertaken in **1854**, extending to a length of **4,400 feet**.

13. Geographical Indication (GI) Tags for Traditional Tamil Nadu Products

The Government of India grants **Geographical Indication (GI) tags** to products with unique characteristics tied to specific regions. Recently, several traditional products from Tamil Nadu have received this recognition:

Madurai Marikozhundhu (Sweet Basil)

- Widely cultivated in **Madurai, Dindigul, and Theni** districts.
- Historical records indicate its use during the **16th-century Meenakshi Amman Temple wedding festival**.
- Valued for its fragrance and traditional medicinal uses.

Vilacheri Clay Dolls

- Handmade by artisans in **Vilacheri**, near Madurai.
- Known for their distinct features, made using the **naturally rich clay** of the region.
- A notable example of their heritage is the **clay idol of the deity at the Keelakuilkudi Karuppasamy Temple**, made over **100 years ago**.

Kumbakonam Betel Leaves

- Recently awarded the GI tag.
- Mentioned in **Subramania Bharati's poem**: *"Wheat from the Ganges riverbank, but we'll choose Kaveri's betel leaf!"*
- The **fertile soil and water from the Kaveri River** give it a distinctive quality.

Thovalai Manikka Malai (Floral Garland)

- A unique handcrafted product from **Thovalai in Kanniyakumari district**.
- Traditionally made using **red and white Arali (oleander) flowers** and **samba grass**, a common aquatic reed.
- Holds a history of over **140 years**.

Chettikulam Small Onion
- Cultivated in **Chettikulam, Perambalur district**.
- Farmers are delighted as it has now received the **GI tag** from the Central Government.
- Annually, around **70,000 tons** of small onions are produced in Perambalur.
- Known for its **15–18-layered dry outer skin**, making it storable for **up to one year**.

14. Katchatheevu
- The dispute over the ownership of **Katchatheevu** began in **1921** between the British colonial administrations of **Madras (India)** and **Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)**.
- The issue was formally resolved through **two bilateral agreements** signed between **India and Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976**.
- These agreements recognized **Katchatheevu as part of Sri Lanka** and also **delineated maritime boundaries**, including the **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)** of both countries.
- As per the agreement, **Indian fishermen are allowed to visit Katchatheevu for the annual St. Anthony's Church festival**, but fishing activities in Sri Lankan waters were **prohibited**.

15. Pamban Bridge
- The **Pamban Bridge**, stretching across the sea, connects **Rameswaram** to mainland **India**.
- Originally built in **1914**, it was India's **first sea bridge** and served as a vital rail link for over a century.
- To address the limitations of the old structure and to meet modern demands for **durability**, **advanced marine navigation**, and **future-readiness**, a **new Pamban Bridge** has been constructed.
- The new bridge was built by **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)**, a **Navratna public sector enterprise** under the **Ministry of Railways**.
- It features a **72.5-meter vertical lift span**, capable of rising **up to 17 meters** to allow ships to pass underneath.
- The new bridge is **3 meters taller** than the old one and is designed to support **heavy freight trains** and **modern semi-high-speed trains** like **Vande Bharat**.
- Notably, it is **India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge**, combining heritage, innovation, and engineering excellence.

16. Demise of Kumari Ananthan

- **Kumari Ananthan**, widely known as *Ilakkiya Selvar* (Literary Treasure), was born in **Kanniyakumari district** and devoted his life to the **Congress movement**, following the footsteps of **K. Kamaraj**.

- He served with distinction as a **Member of the Legislative Assembly** during the periods **1980–84**, **1985–88**, **1989–91**, and **1991–96**, and as a **Member of Parliament** between **1977–1980**.

- He played a **pivotal role in establishing the right to speak in Tamil in the Indian Parliament**. Recognizing this, **former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi** famously praised him by saying Ananthan "changed the proverb *'a single tree does not make a forest'*."

- In honor of his **contributions to Tamil Nadu and the Tamil community**, the **Tamil Nadu government awarded him the prestigious "Thagaisal Tamilar" Award** in **2024**.

17. Government Orders Must Be Issued Only in Tamil: Directive from the Secretary of Tamil Development Department

To fully implement the Tamil Official Language Act and to ensure that all government office procedures are conducted in Tamil, the Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department has instructed all departmental secretaries that government orders must be issued exclusively in Tamil.

National News

1. India Becomes the Country with the 3rd Largest Metro Network in the World (1,000 km)

- India has emerged as the country with the third-largest metro network in the world.

- With rapid expansion, India now holds the third position globally in terms of metro network length and is on track to become the second-largest.

- China and the United States currently hold the first and second positions, respectively.

Metro History in India:

- **1984:** India's first metro line was inaugurated in Kolkata.

- **1995:** Delhi Metro project initiated.

- **2002:** DMRC launched the first operational metro corridor in Delhi.

- **2011:** Bengaluru Metro commenced operations.

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- **2017:** Chennai Metro began service (from Koyambedu to Nehru Park).
- **2020:** Kochi Metro was inaugurated.

2. Naxalism

- Naxalism originated as an uprising against landowners in Naxalbari, West Bengal, over land disputes.
- It later spread across the eastern parts of India.
- In 2022, incidents of violence and deaths caused by Naxalism decreased by 77% and 90%, respectively, compared to 2010.

Affected States:

- Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala.

3. University Grants Commission (UGC) Draft Regulations 2025

- The UGC has announced draft regulations aimed at expanding the eligibility criteria for academic positions in Vice-Chancellors and universities, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Changes in Vice-Chancellor Appointments:

- Candidates from various fields such as public administration, business, and public policy are now eligible for Vice-Chancellor positions. They must have a minimum of 10 years of senior-level experience along with significant academic contributions.

Selection Committee Structure:

- A three-member committee will select candidates, comprising the Chancellor (Chairperson), and nominees from the UGC and the university's highest governing body.

Relaxed NET Requirement:

- Candidates with a postgraduate degree in engineering or technology with at least 55% marks can apply for Assistant Professor positions without clearing the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET).

About the University Grants Commission (UGC):

- The UGC was conceptualized based on the Sargent Report of 1944, which proposed a national education system for India.
- It led to the formation of the University Grants Committee in 1945, which oversaw universities.
- After India's independence, the University Education Commission (1948), led by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, recommended restructuring the body based on the UK's UGC model.

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- Consequently, the UGC was formally established in 1953 and became a statutory body under the UGC Act of 1956.

4. Marathi Language Officially Granted Classical Language Status

- Recently (October 3, 2024), the Union Cabinet granted classical language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, raising the total number of classical languages in India to eleven.
- Previously, six languages were recognized as classical languages in India: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
- Tamil was declared a classical language in 2004; Sanskrit in 2005; Kannada and Telugu in 2008; Malayalam in 2013; and Odia in 2014.
- All classical languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

5. Indonesian President Subianto Participates as Chief Guest at Republic Day Celebration

- At India's 76th Republic Day celebration, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto attended as the chief guest.
- Last year (2024), French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest at the Republic Day event.
- Notable past chief guests include:
    - 1995: South African President Nelson Mandela
    - 2023: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
    - 2020: Then Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro
    - 2015: Then U.S. President Barack Obama

6. Resolution to Declare January as Tamil Language and Heritage Month

- A resolution has been introduced in the United States Congress proposing to designate January as Tamil Language and Heritage Month.

7. Pangsau Pass International Festival (PPIF) 2025

- The Pangsau Pass International Festival (PPIF) 2025, held in Arunachal Pradesh, celebrates the region's cultural heritage and its historical significance during World War II.
- It has been conducted annually since 2007 in Nampong, Arunachal Pradesh, during the third week of January.

- The festival promotes cultural exchange between Northeast India and Myanmar.
- It showcases the folk dances (such as Bihu, Moongil dance, Tangsa Rongrand war dance), arts, handicrafts, ethnic cuisines, and traditional games of the Tangsa Naga tribe and other local communities.

8. India's First Archaeological Experiential Museum

- The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the State Archaeology and Museum Directorate, has established a museum showcasing the multi-layered cultural history of Vadnagar (Gujarat) through artifacts discovered during excavations.
- This museum offers a high-speed immersive experience with audio-visual presentations and interactive displays.

9. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award) – 2025

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2025 in the institutional category for its outstanding work in disaster management related to ocean information services.
- This award is announced annually on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- INCOIS was established in 1999 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- INCOIS received the UN World Geospatial Special Award in 2024 for marine services and the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Special Award in 2021.
- The Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award has been given since 2022.

10. Vijay Durg

- As a recent step to remove colonial practices and mindsets within the armed forces, the William Fort, the headquarters of the Eastern Command located in Kolkata, has been renamed Vijay Durg.
- Additionally, within William Fort, Kitchener House has been renamed Maneksha House, and the South Gate, previously called Saint George Gate, is now named Shivaji Gate.
- The Russell Block inside the fort has been renamed Jatin Block in memory of freedom

fighter Jatindranath Mukherjee.

- William Fort, named after King William III of England, was built in 1781 on the banks of the Hooghly River during the East India Company's rule.
- Robert Clive initiated the construction of William Fort in 1758, and it was completed in 1781.
- Vijay Durg is also the name of one of the oldest forts located on the coast of Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

11. Railway Zones Realignment

- The Union Cabinet proposed in 2019 the creation of a new zone called the South Coast Railway, headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- As a result, the Waltair division of the East Coast Railway is being split into two divisions.
- One division will operate under the South Coast Railway with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters, while the other will continue under the East Coast Railway with Rayagada in Odisha as its headquarters.

Railway Zones Overview:

- India's first passenger train ran from Bombay to Thane in 1853. The railway system was nationalized in 1951.
- The Indian Railways currently has 70 divisions and 19 zones, including the Kolkata Metro Railway.
- The South Coast Railway zone will be the 18th railway zone of Indian Railways.

12. 'Aadi Mahotsav' Festival

- The President of India, Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the national tribal festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' on February 16, 2025, in New Delhi.
- The festival aims to showcase the rich traditional culture of India's tribal communities.
- This festival was first started in 2023.

13. State with the Highest Number of Eagles

- Madhya Pradesh has become the state with the highest number of eagles in the country.
- According to a recent state-level eagle census conducted by the Forest Department, the eagle population has increased to 12,981.

14. Chhatrapati Shivaji Forts

- A high-level committee led by Maharashtra's Minister of Cultural Affairs has

traveled to Paris to seek UNESCO World Heritage status for 12 forts associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

- **Raigad Fort:** Served as the capital of the Maratha Empire from 1674 to 1818.
- **Rajgad Fort:** The first capital of Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Pratapgad Fort:** Famous for the historic battle in 1659 between Shivaji Maharaj and Afzal Khan.
- **Sindhudurg Fort:** Located on an island off the Konkan coast.
- **Vijaydurg Fort:** Known as the 'Gibraltar of the East' due to its strong coastal defense.

15. Multilingualism in India

- Analysis of the 2011 Census data shows that only 26.02% of Indians are bilingual speakers, and 7.1% are trilingual speakers.
- Goa has the highest bilingual population at 77.21% and the highest trilingual population at 50.82% — the only state where more than 50% of people speak three languages.
- Other top-ranking states for multilingualism include Arunachal Pradesh (64.03%), Sikkim (63.71%),

Nagaland (62.15%), and Maharashtra (51.1%).

- About 43.63% of Indians speak Hindi as their mother tongue.
- In South India, Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana) had the highest Hindi-speaking population at 3.69% according to the 2011 Census.
- In five states/union territories, including Tamil Nadu and Kerala, less than 1% of the population speaks Hindi.

16. Asiatic Lions Census

- The Prime Minister announced that the 16th Asiatic Lions Census will commence in May.
- He made this announcement while chairing the 7th meeting of the National Wildlife Board in Junagadh district, Gujarat, on the occasion of World Wildlife Day (March 3).
- He also announced the establishment of a special center in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu, to manage and prevent human-wildlife conflicts.

17. Kaliyattam

- The Kaliyattam festival takes place during the Malayalam month of

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Kumbham (February-March).
- Recognized as an indispensable part of Kerala's Aruva tradition, it is celebrated in kavus (sacred groves) and tharavads (ancestral homes).
- Theyyam is also called the "dance of the gods" or "divine dance."

18. Vikramashila University

- After Nalanda University, another ancient center of learning, Vikramashila University in Bihar, is being prepared for revival. To promote tourism, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is currently developing this ancient site.
- Vikramashila University is located in Bagalpur, Bihar, on the banks of the Ganges River and was an important historical site in Eastern India.
- Nalanda University flourished from the Gupta period (320–550 CE) until the 12th century (Pala period, 8th to 12th centuries).
- Vikramashila University came to an end in 1203 CE when it was destroyed by Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji.

19. Operation Brahma

- Recently, a devastating earthquake in Myanmar caused significant loss of life and widespread destruction.
- To provide assistance, India launched **Operation Brahma** to deliver emergency humanitarian aid.
- Previous operations like **Operation Dost** in Turkey and Syria demonstrate India's commitment to humanitarian assistance.

20. Tripitaka

- During a state visit, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha presented Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the title **"The World Tipitaka: Sajjhaya Phonetic Edition."**
- The word "Tripitaka" in Pali means **"three baskets,"** referring to the three main divisions of Buddhist scriptures.

21. Andhra Capital Amaravati

- The Central Government has allocated ₹4,285 crore for the Andhra Pradesh state capital.
- The unified Andhra Pradesh state was bifurcated on June 2, 2014, leading to the formation of Telangana state.

- It was stipulated in the state bifurcation act that Hyderabad would remain the capital of Telangana and also serve as Andhra Pradesh's capital for up to 10 years or until a new capital was developed.
- However, after the bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu declared Amaravati as the new capital between Guntur and Vijayawada.
- From 2014 to 2019, the legislative assembly, secretariat, and other administrative functions were constructed and operated in Amaravati.
- In 2019, Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy introduced a three-capital policy with the legislative assembly in Amaravati, the High Court in Kurnool, and the secretariat in Visakhapatnam.

22. Honors by the Government of India to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- **Bharat Ratna (1990):** Awarded posthumously as India's highest civilian honor for his significant contribution to nation-building.
- **Ambedkar Circuit (Panchateerth):** Development of five key sites related to his life – Mhow (birthplace), London (education center), Nagpur (initiation site), Mumbai (workplace), and Delhi (final resting place).
- **BHIM App:** Launched in his name to promote digital payments and financial inclusion.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Special Centers (DACE):** Established in 31 central universities to provide free UPSC coaching for Scheduled Caste students.
- **ASIIM Scheme:** Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission supports SC youth entrepreneurs through seed funding.
- **National Memorials:** Places like Sankalp Bhumi (Vadodara) and his school in Satara have been proposed for national memorial status.
- **Constitution Day (November 26):** Observed since 2015 to honor his legacy as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.
- **Ambedkar Jayanti:** Celebrated on April 14, his birth anniversary, as a national holiday commemorating his contributions to social justice, the rights of Scheduled Castes, and the Indian Constitution.

23. Rongali Bihu

- Also known as Bohag Bihu, Rongali Bihu is celebrated across Assam from April 14 to 20, 2025. It marks the Assamese New Year and the beginning of the harvest season.
- The word "Rong" in Assamese means happiness.

Festival	Time	Significance
Rongali Bihu	April (Bohag)	Start of sowing season, Assamese New Year
Kati Bihu	October (Kati)	Mid-crop season, prayer for good harvest
Magh Bihu	January (Magh)	Harvest completion, community feasts

New Year Celebrations in Indian States

- **Baisakhi:** Celebrated in Punjab and North India, marking the start of the spring harvest season.
- **Puthandu:** Celebrated by Tamil communities in Tamil Nadu and worldwide, marking the first day of the Tamil calendar month Chithirai.
- **Pohela Boishakh:** Celebrated in West Bengal, marking the Bengali calendar New Year.
- **Jut Sheetal:** Celebrated by the Maithili community in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal.
- **Pana Sankranti:** Odia New Year celebrated in Odisha, named after a traditional drink "Pela Pana" made from wood apples.
- **Vishu:** Celebrated in Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu, marking the sun's transition into the Mesha (Aries) zodiac.
- **Ugadi:** Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka as the Hindu New Year. The word comes from Sanskrit "Yuga" (age) and "Adhi" (beginning), meaning "the start of a new age."
- **Gudi Padwa:** Celebrated in Maharashtra and Goa as the Marathi New Year and the first day of Chaitra month.
- **Navreh:** Celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits as their traditional New Year; the name derives from Sanskrit "Nav Varsha," meaning "New Year."
- **Sajibu Nongmapanba (Sajiroba):** Celebrated by the Meitei community in Manipur, marking the start of the Manipuri lunar calendar year.
- **Bestu Varas:** Celebrated in Gujarat as New Year, it falls

the day after Diwali and is part of a five-day festival.

24. Taj Mahal

- The Taj Mahal is a magnificent white marble mausoleum located in Agra, India.
- It is situated on the southern bank of the Yamuna River.
- It was built in 1632 by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (reigned 1628–1658).
- The monument was constructed in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- In 1983, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Taj Mahal is considered an outstanding example of Mughal architecture.

25. Former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Kasturirangan's Demise

- Former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Dr. K. Kasturirangan, passed away in Bengaluru.
- He was born on October 24, 1940, in Ernakulam, Kerala.

Science and Technology:

- He played a key role in advancing India's space program.
- Served as the fifth Chairman of ISRO from 1994 to 2003.
- Directed the ISRO Satellite Centre and established India's remote sensing satellite program.
- Oversaw development of the new generation launch vehicle, Indian National Satellite System (INSAT-2), remote sensing satellites (IRS-1A & 1B), and scientific satellites.
- Contributed significantly to the development of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Education and Policy:

- Led several important committees including those on Western Ghats and national education policy.
- Served as Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Chairman of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission.
- Was a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 2003 to 2009.
- Honored with prestigious awards such as Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to science and national service.

26. Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- The Odisha government has declared the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), the world's only habitat of wild

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melanistic tigers, as a National Park.

- It is the 107th National Park in India.
- After Bhitarkanika, it is the second National Park in the state of Odisha.

27. National Archives of India (NAI)

- Established in 1891 in Kolkata as the Imperial Records Department.
- It is the largest archival repository in South Asia.
- Serves as the custodian of valuable and continuous records of the Government of India.
- Located in New Delhi.
- Houses a vast collection of public records, private papers, oriental records, maps, and microfilms.
- The Director of Archives oversees the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993, and related rules for managing and preserving government records.
- Operates under the Ministry of Culture.

ECONOMICS

Union Budget of India 2025–2026

General Overview

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget for the year 2025–2026**.
- This marks her **eighth consecutive Union Budget** presentation on **February 1**.
- Previously, **Morarji Desai** had presented **10 Union Budgets** at different times.
  - He presented **6 budgets** during **1959–1964** and **4 budgets** during **1967–1969**.

Income Tax Proposals

- The **income tax exemption limit** has been raised to **₹12 lakh**. That is, individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually will be exempted from paying income tax.
- The **new income tax bill** is expected to be tabled in **the following week**, said Nirmala Sitharaman.
- In the **insurance sector**, the **foreign direct investment (FDI) limit** is increased from **74% to 100%**.

New Revised Income Tax Slabs

Annual Income Range	Tax Rate
Up to ₹4 lakhs	0%
₹4 – ₹8 lakhs	5%
₹8 – ₹12 lakhs	10%
₹12 – ₹16 lakhs	15%
₹16 – ₹20 lakhs	20%
₹20 – ₹24 lakhs	25%
Above ₹24 lakhs	30%

Agriculture Sector Announcements

- A **Makhana Board** will be established in **Bihar**, aimed at enhancing agricultural production and marketing. This will benefit Makhana (fox nut) farmers.
  - India accounts for **85% of global Makhana production**, with **90% of Indian Makhana** being produced in Bihar.
- A **National Centre for Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management** will be established in Bihar for food processing.
- **100 districts** will be promoted under the **PM Dhan Dhanya Yojana**, a scheme to boost agricultural growth.
- A **National Mission on Edible Oils** will be launched to achieve **self-sufficiency in edible oil seeds**.
- A new scheme will be introduced for **high-yielding seeds**.
- An **integrated scheme** for **fruits and vegetables** will be

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launched in collaboration with state governments.

- The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan limit** has been raised from **₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh**, providing higher financial assistance to farmers.

Industry & Entrepreneurship

- An additional **₹10,000 crore** will be allocated to the existing **₹10,000 crore Startup Fund** to support startups.
- A new scheme will be launched to support **5 lakh women, SCs/STs** to establish their first startups.
- A new initiative focusing on **footwear and leather industries** will be introduced, expected to generate **22 lakh employment opportunities**.
- A new scheme will be implemented to make **India a global hub** for **toy manufacturing**.
- Street vendors will be supported through **credit cards** offering loans up to **₹30,000**, integrated with **UPI**.
- **Gig workers** can register on the **e-Shram portal**, receive identity cards, and avail **health insurance** under **PM Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- The **gig economy**, which refers to flexible, short-term work (like with Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Zomato, Urban Company), is formally recognized and supported.

Education Sector

- **Atal Tinkering Labs** will be set up in schools to promote scientific thinking among children, with **50,000 labs** planned in the next **five years**.
- **Broadband connectivity** will be provided to **all government higher secondary schools in rural areas**.
- Over the past decade, the number of students in **23 IITs** has increased from **65,000 to 1.35 lakh**.
- The **five IITs established after 2024** will receive enhanced infrastructure support.
  - For example, **IIT Patna** will be expanded.

Others

- **Customs duties** on medicines for **cancer** and other critical illnesses will be reduced.
- **36 cancer-related medicines** and **6 life-saving drugs** will be exempt from duty.
- The **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** scheme, focused on developing regional airports, will be revamped to connect **120 new regional destinations**.
  - It is expected that **4 crore passengers** will benefit over the next **10 years**.
- For **senior citizens**, the **TDS exemption limit** has been raised from **₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh**.
- The **top 50 tourism destinations** in the country

will be developed in coordination with **state governments**.

2. Economic Survey 2024–25: Key Highlights

- The Economic Survey for the year 2024–25 was presented in Parliament on January 31, 2025. It emphasized that despite various developmental initiatives, India's agriculture sector still possesses "significant untapped growth potential."
- India's economy is projected to grow at **6.6% in 2025**.
- For the financial year 2025–26, the survey forecasts economic growth between **6.3% and 6.8%**.
- Fiscal consolidation has seen notable progress, with the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Inclusion Index rising from **53.9 in March 2021** to **64.2 by March 2024**.

External Sector:

- Total exports registered a **6% year-on-year (YoY)** growth in the first nine months of FY2025.
- India holds the **7th largest share globally** in service exports.
- In telecommunications, computer, and information services, India commands a **10.2% share** of the global export market.
- India remains the **top recipient of global remittances**, helping limit the **current account deficit (CAD) to 1.2%** of GDP.

Inflation:

- Retail inflation decreased from **5.4% in FY2024** to **4.9% during April–December 2024**.
- However, **food inflation**, measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), increased from **7.5% in FY2024** to **8.4% in the same period of FY2025**.
- Both the **RBI** and the **IMF** estimate that India's inflation will gradually align with the inflation target during FY2026.

Industrial Sector:

- Core industries such as **steel, cement, chemicals, and petrochemicals** have been major contributors to industrial growth, while **consumer-driven sectors** like automobiles, electronics, and pharmaceuticals have emerged as key growth drivers.

Cement Industry:

- India is the **second-largest cement producer** globally, after China.
- Most cement plants are located near raw material sources. About **87% of the industry is concentrated** in states like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.

Steel Industry:

- During April–November FY25, crude and finished steel production grew by **3.3% and 4.6%**, respectively.
- Despite monthly fluctuations, there has been an overall upward trend in both production and consumption.

Chemical & Petrochemical Sector:

- In FY2023, the chemical and chemical product sectors accounted for **9.5% of total manufacturing sales** (at 2011–12 prices).
- India remains a **net importer** of these products, with about **45% of petrochemical intermediates** being import-dependent.

Textile Industry:

- The textile sector is a major **employment generator**, contributing around **11% to India's total GVA** from manufacturing.
- India is a global leader in **jute production**, and ranks second in the production of **cotton, silk, and man-made fibres**.
- India is the **6th largest exporter** of textiles and garments, holding approximately **4% share in global trade**.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):

- India has a robust IPR framework. As per WIPO's 2022 report, India ranks **6th globally** in the number of patent applications filed.

- Most patent filings are in fields such as **IT & electronics, mechanical engineering, biotechnology, and telecommunications**.

Agriculture:

- The **agriculture and allied sectors** contribute around **16% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** at current prices (FY24 preliminary estimates).
- These sectors also support approximately **46.1% of the population**.

Climate & Environment:

- Despite being one of the fastest-growing economies, **India's per capita carbon emissions are one-third of the global average**.
- India ranks as the **7th most vulnerable country to climate change**, facing threats such as **extreme weather events**, **rising sea levels**, **biodiversity loss**, and **water insecurity**.

Employment & Economic Ranking:

- In 2014, India was ranked as the **10th largest economy** in the world. Within a decade, it surpassed the UK to become the **4th largest economy**.
- By **2030**, India is projected to become the **third-largest economy**, behind only the **United States and China**.
- By easing regulatory restrictions and reducing the cost of doing business, opportunities will open up for **companies to hire more**

employees, stimulating further job creation.

3. Tamil Nadu Budget 2025–26 Highlights
Theme: "Everything for Everyone"

- Tamil Nadu is progressing toward inclusive and multi-dimensional growth. It remains the **second-largest state economy in India**.
- Notably, the symbol for the Indian Rupee, which was previously mentioned as "₹," has been replaced with "ரூ" in the Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu for 2024-25.
- The finance minister began the budget speech with a quote from economist Thomas Piketty: *"Inequality is a choice, but we can choose a different path."*
- **Total Budget Value**
  - Total Revenue Income - ₹3,32,330 crore
  - Total Expenditure - ₹4,39,293 crore
  - Revenue Deficit - ₹41,635 crore
  - Fiscal Deficit - ₹1,06,963 crore
- **Revenue**
  - State Own Tax Revenue - ₹2,20,895 crore
  - State's Non-Tax Revenue - ₹28,818 crore
  - Grants in aid from Central Government - ₹23,834 crore
  - Share in Central Taxes - ₹58,022 crore

Tamil Development Initiatives:

- Thirukkural has been translated into all 193 languages recognized by the UN. Translation into 45 more world languages will be funded with ₹1.33 crore.
- To spread the glory of classical Tamil among Tamils around the world, a 'World Tamil Olympiad' competition will be held annually at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.
- Museums will be established at Noyyal in Erode with **Rs. 22 crore** and at Naavai Museum in Ramanathapuram with **Rs. 21 crore**.
- Tamil book fairs will be held in **Singapore, Dubai, and Malaysia** (₹2 crore allocated).
- **Rs. 7 crore** is allocated for archaeological research across Tamil Nadu, and excavation projects will be carried out in 8 districts, including Coimbatore.
  - Keezhadi in Sivaganga district,
  - Pattanamarudur in Thoothukudi district,
  - Karivalamvanthanallur in Tenkasi district,
  - Nagapattinam,
  - Manikkollai in Cuddalore district,
  - Adichanur in Kallakurichi district,
  - Vellalur in Coimbatore district, and
  - Thelunganur in Salem district.

Sectors	Allocation
Education	Rs. 55,261 crores
Urban Development	Rs. 34,396 crores
Rural Development	Rs. 29,465 crores
Healthcare	Rs. 21,906 crores
Energy	Rs. 21,178 crores
Highways	Rs. 20,722 crores
Police	Rs. 13,342 crores
Transport	Rs. 12,965 crores
Water Resources	Rs. 9,460 crores
Social Welfare	Rs. 8,597 crores
Industries and MSME	Rs. 5,833 crores
Adi-Dravidar & Tribal Welfare	Rs. 3,924 crores

Women Welfare:

- 'Thozhi' working women's hostels, will be constructed in 10 more places at an estimated cost of **Rs.77 crore**, benefiting 800 women.
- A scheme will ensure women's safety in urban areas at cost of **Rs. 75 crore**.
- Registration fees will be reduced by 1% for immovable property registered in the name of women, valued up to **Rs. 10 lakh**.
- **10,000 self-help groups (SHGs)** will be formed with a target of disbursing loans worth **Rs. 37,000 crore**.
- **Rs. 13,807 crore** will be allocated for the "Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam," ensuring assistance for those who have not yet benefited.
- **Rs. 36 crore** is allocated for providing HPV vaccines to prevent cervical cancer for girls under 14 years.
- **Rs. 3,600 crore** is allocated for the "Magalir Vidiyal" travel scheme.
- 50,000 orphaned children will receive **Rs. 2,000 monthly** until they reach 18 years of age.
- A major project to promote 1 lakh women entrepreneurs will be implemented.
- Transgender individuals pursuing higher education will receive **Rs. 1,000 monthly**.
- The "Pudhumai Penn" and "Tamizh Pudhalvan" schemes providing **Rs. 1,000 monthly assistances** to higher education students will be extended to transgender students.
- Third-gender individuals to be trained and employed in public service roles such as traffic management and festival crowd control. Pilot program with 50 individuals in Tambaram and Avadi, Chennai, offering equal

salary, training, and uniforms as Home Guards.

- **The Nannilam Women Landownership Scheme:** The Tamil Nadu government has introduced the Nannilam Women Landownership Scheme to empower women agricultural workers belonging to the Adi Dravidian and Tribal communities as land owners.

- Through this scheme, with the aim of ensuring the economic security of women, their social upliftment and strengthening their livelihood, Rs. 20 crores have been allocated for this scheme in the year 2025-2026.

Education Sector:

- **10 new Government Arts & Science Colleges** to be established.

- State Universities, block grant will be enhanced to Rs.700 crore

- Centres of Excellence (CoEs) will be established in government engineering colleges at a cost of **Rs. 50 crores**.

- Anna University in Chennai to be transformed in the next 5 years to make it into the top 10 universities in India and in the top 150 universities list in the world QS rankings, with modern technological laboratories, R&D centres, startup hub, AI labs, etc.

- 20 lakh college students will receive laptops or tablets within the next two years.

- Basic science and mathematics research centres will be set up in Chennai and Coimbatore at a cost of **Rs. 100 crores**.

- ₹160 crore to upgrade computer labs in 2,000 schools.

- ₹56 crore for upgrading 880 high-tech laboratories.

- ₹65 crore for upgrading smart classrooms in 2,676 schools.

- ₹1,000 crore allocated to improve infrastructure in government schools (classrooms, labs, drinking water).

- The government will ensure that 1 lakh college students receive educational loans worth **Rs. 2,500 crores**.

- **Rs. 10 crores** will be allocated to enable government school students to pursue postgraduate and research programs in reputed foreign universities.

- **Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scheme:** Rs. 65 crores allocated the state government is working hard to expand global educational opportunities for Adi Dravidian and tribal students.

- To reduce the financial burden of students pursuing postgraduate or research courses in fields such as arts, science, commerce, law, engineering, medicine and provide an opportunity for talented students to study in world-renowned educational

institutions, a fund of Rs. 65 crores will be allocated in the financial year 2025-2026 under the Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scheme.

Urban Development:

- **Rs. 2,100 crore** will be allocated to renovate Urban Development Authority (UDA) housing units.
- Chief Minister's creation labs will be set up in all municipal corporations, with **Rs. 5 crore** allocated for each of the 30 locations.
- **Rs. 50 crore** will be allocated for establishing a "Viyan Centre of Excellence."
- A new airport will be developed in Rameswaram.
- **25 Anbu Cholai Elderly Care Day Centers** will be established across Tamil Nadu.
- **Rs. 2,000 crore** will be allocated for the Kalaignar Urban Development Scheme.
- **6,483 km of roads** will be upgraded in urban local bodies at a cost of **Rs. 3,750 crore**.
- A new **world-class smart city** will be developed over 2,000 acres near Chennai by TIDCO.
- The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme will be expanded to benefit an additional **3.14 lakh students**.
- An environmental park will be set up at the Ooty Race Course.

Rural Development:

- Under the "Kalaignar Kanavu Illam" scheme, **Rs. 3,500 crore** will be allocated to build 1 lakh new houses in rural areas.
- **Rs. 600 crore** will be allocated to build 25,000 new houses replacing dilapidated structures.
- Awards will be presented to socially harmonious villages, with **Rs. 1 crore** granted to 10 villages.
- **6,100 km of rural roads** will be built under the Mudalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam and Rural Roads (Chief Minister's Rural Roads Development Scheme), with **Rs. 2,200 crore** allocated.
- **Rs. 74 crore** will be allocated to support 19,000 artisans under the "Kalaignar Handicraft Scheme."

Industry and MSMEs:

- Tamil Nadu ranks third in India with over **32 lakh MSME units**.
- **Rs. 2.5 lakh crore** will be allocated to support loans for 10 lakh MSMEs.
- **Rs. 366 crores** will be allocated for establishing 9 new SIDCO industrial estates, creating 17,500 jobs.
- A **semiconductor machinery park** will be set up over 100 acres each in Sulur, Coimbatore, and Palladam.
- A **250-acre engineering and foundry park** will be established in Trichy, creating 5,000 jobs.
- The state also plans to set up two new footwear parks – one

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each in Melur (Madurai) and Cuddalore – generating 20,000 jobs. The total investment for these projects is estimated at **Rs 250 crore**.

- **Rs. 50 crores** will be allocated to implement the Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030.
- **Rs. 20,000 subsidies** will be provided to 2,000 self-employed workers to purchase electric two-wheelers.

Other Announcements:

- Tamil Nadu has successfully hosted several international and national sporting events, including the **44th Chess Olympiad 2022**, **Khelo India Youth Games 2023**, **South Asian Youth Athletics Championship**, and **Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2023**.
- Tamil Nadu has emerged as the "Chess Capital" of the world, having produced 2 champions and 31 Grandmasters. To maintain this legacy, chess will be introduced into the physical education curriculum.
- To reduce air pollution, **1,125 electric buses** will be introduced in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai with assistance from the World Bank and German Development Bank.
- **Rs. 150 crores** will be allocated to renovate 17 heritage buildings, including Bharathiyar's residence at Ettayapuram.

- A **new city** will be developed near Chennai over 2,000 acres to house IT parks, fintech hubs, R&D centres, high-tech companies, banking institutions, educational facilities, and healthcare services.
- A **modern science centre** will be established in collaboration with the Singapore Science Centre.

4. Economic Survey Report

- For the first time in Tamil Nadu's history, a state economic survey report has been created.
- The 'Tamil Nadu Economic Survey Report 2024-25,' prepared by the State Planning Commission, was released by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on March 13, ahead of the presentation of the state budget for 2025-2026, which is scheduled for March 14.
- In previous years, the Indian Rupee symbol was used in the Tamil Nadu Finance Report.
- This year, the term 'ரு' has replaced the Rupee symbol.
- The change was made to give priority to Tamil over other languages in the report.

Key Aspects of the State Economic Survey Report

- Since 2021-22, Tamil Nadu has consistently achieved a growth rate of 8% or more, and it is expected to maintain this rate in 2025-25 as well.

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- Tamil Nadu contributed 9.21% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023-24. The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24 reached ₹27.22 lakh crore, with a nominal growth rate of 13.71% and a real growth rate of 8.33%.
- Tamil Nadu's per capita income growth has consistently been above the national average. In 2022-23, it stood at ₹2.78 lakh, which is 1.64 times higher than the national average of ₹1.69 lakh.
- As a result, Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in per capita income, with its individual income significantly higher than the national average.
- In 2023-24, the services sector contributed 53.63% to the state's GSDP, followed by the secondary sector at 33.37%, and the primary sector at 13%. Like other developed states, if the contribution of the secondary sector increases by 5%, employment will also rise.
- Retail inflation in Tamil Nadu, which was 6% in 2022-23, reduced to 5.4% in 2023-24 and is expected to further decrease to 4.8% by 2024-25 (until January 2025). Urban inflation, which stood at 6% in 2019-20, is expected to decline to 4.5% by 2024-25 (until January 2025).
- Of the total cultivated area, 62% is occupied by food grains like rice, maize, millet, ragi, and millet varieties, while 38% is occupied by non-food crops like oilseeds, sugarcane, and cotton. Rice continues to hold the dominant position in terms of crop area. The share of rice in total cultivated land increased from 32.1% in 2019-20 to 34.4% in 2023-24.
- The credit disbursed to Tamil Nadu farmers through scheduled commercial banks has increased from ₹1.83 lakh crore in 2019-20 to ₹3.58 lakh crore in 2023-24.
- In 2024, the Global Investors Meet was held, attracting investments worth ₹6.64 lakh crore, which is expected to generate 14.55 lakh job opportunities.
- From 2019-20 to 2023-24, credit to the industrial sector in Tamil Nadu from commercial banks has increased from ₹2.5 lakh crore to ₹3.01 lakh crore. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has risen from ₹5,909 crore to ₹20,157 crore.
- From 2005-06 to 2022-23, Tamil Nadu's poverty rate (according to HCR) has drastically reduced from 36.54% to just 1.43%.
- The Tamil Nadu government has consistently increased allocations for social sector expenditures. The allocation for social welfare was ₹79,859 crore in 2019-20 and increased to ₹1.16 lakh crore in 2022-23.

5. Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2025

- A total of ₹45,661 crore has been allocated for the agriculture sector.
- Since 2021, a separate agriculture budget has been presented in Tamil Nadu. In this context, Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam presented the agriculture budget in the Legislative Assembly for the 5th consecutive time.

Important Notes:

- The total cultivated area in Tamil Nadu, which was 1.47 crore acres in the 2019-20 financial year, has increased by 3.23 lakh acres to 1.50 crore acres in the 2024-25 financial year.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in the production of finger millet (ragi) at the national level, second in maize, oilseeds, and sugarcane, and third in groundnut and pulses production.
- In 2,338 village panchayats, the "Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme" will be implemented with an allocation of ₹269.50 crore to improve the quality of life for farmers.
- For small and marginal farmers belonging to SC/ST categories, a maximum subsidy of 70% will be provided for integrated farming, greenhouses, agricultural machinery, etc., with an allocation of ₹61.12 crore, benefiting 15,800 farmers so far.
- ₹17,000 crore will be allocated for short-term agricultural loans in the 2025-26 financial year.
- The "Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres" will be inaugurated in 1,000 locations with an allocation of ₹42 crore, to provide modern technologies and agricultural advice through agriculture graduates.
- Special package schemes of ₹160 crore will be implemented to increase paddy production in the delta districts (18 lakh acres) and other districts (34 lakh acres).
- A crop insurance scheme will be implemented with ₹841 crore to safeguard farmers' livelihoods from natural calamities that affect crops.
- The Dr.M.S.Swaminathan Research Grant of ₹1 crore will be allocated through Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for new discoveries.
- Compensation for accident fatalities of landless agricultural workers will be increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh, with natural death assistance rising from ₹20,000 to ₹30,000, and funeral expenses from ₹2,500 to ₹10,000.
- For the first time, a ₹10 crore fund will be allocated to create

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a Tamil Nadu Groundnut Board.

- 20 farmer markets will be integrated with online platforms to allow the public to purchase green vegetables directly from their homes.
- "The CM's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaapom Scheme" scheme will be implemented with ₹142 crore.
- An Integrated Coconut Development Scheme will be implemented with ₹35 crore.
- Geographical Indications (GI) registration will be sought for various agricultural products like Nallur Varagu (Cuddalore), Vedharanyam Mullai (Nagapattinam), Natham Puli (Dindigul), Ayakudi Koyya (Dindigul) and Kappalpatti Karumbu Murungai (Dindigul).
- ₹22.8 crore has been allocated for the "Malaivazh Uzhavar Munnetra Thittam" for 63,000 mountain-dwelling indigenous people.
- Three farmers excelling in organic farming will be awarded the "Nammazhvar Award" with a fund allocation of ₹6 lakh.
- The "Village Outreach Campaign" will be launched to provide technical advice to farmers in their villages.
- **Summer Crop Plan:** To control the rise in vegetable prices due to reduced production in summer, ₹10.5 crore will be allocated for sowing essential vegetables in April and May.
- In Tamil Nadu, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and their families are provided with benefits such as old age pension, maternity benefits, natural death assistance, accident relief, funeral assistance and educational assistance under the Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam.
- Relief for death due to accident will be enhanced from Rs.1 Lakh to Rs.2 Lakh
- Relief for disability due to accident will be enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.1 Lakh.
- Assistance for natural death will be enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000.
- Assistance for funeral expenses will be enhanced from Rs.2,500 to Rs.10,000.
- **Nutrition Farming Mission:** ₹125 crore will be allocated for the creation of a nutritional agriculture movement to ensure people's nutritional needs and enhance farmers' incomes.
- **Green Tamil Nadu Initiative:** A Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy will be created to promote green agriculture.
- **Cotton Production Enhancement Scheme:** ₹12.21 crore will be allocated to increase cotton production.
- **Oilseeds Mission:** An oilseed production scheme worth ₹108

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crore will be created to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils.

- **Maize Production Enhancement Scheme:** ₹40 crore will be allocated for the improvement of maize production.
- **Agricultural Mechanization:** ₹1.5 crore will be invested in strengthening the e-Vaadagai application for providing agricultural machinery on rent.
- **Nutrient-rich Banana Cultivation Scheme:** ₹1.5 crore will be allocated to promote the cultivation of nutrient-rich banana varieties in districts like Tenkasi, Dindigul, Theni, Kallakurichi, Nilgiris, and Salem over 500 acres.
- Nutritious avocado cultivation will be encouraged in an area of 500 acres in the districts of Tenkasi, Dindigul, Theni, Kallakurichi, Nilgiris and Salem at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore.
- The 'Tamil Nadu Millet Mission' scheme was announced as a five-year programme from 2023-24 to 2027-28 and is being implemented by integrating all the agriculture and sister departments.
- This scheme will continue to be implemented during the year 2025-26 with key components like formation of farmer groups, crop production packages, and establishment of Custom Hiring Centres, at an outlay of

Rs.52.44 crore from Union and State funds.

Jackfruit Development Mission

- "முன்றில் பலவின் படுசுகளை மரீஇப் புன்தலை மந்தி துர்ப்ப"
- The Sangam Literature Natrinai depicts how the ancient tamil people cultivated jack trees in their courtyards.
- During 2023-24 and 2024-25, a special scheme for Jackfruit cultivation was announced at an outlay of Rs.3.71 crore encompassing area expansion, integrated nutrient and pest management, minimal processing unit, training for Jackfruit cultivation and value addition.

Palmyrah Development Mission:

- "நாராய் நாராய் செங்கால் நாராய்
  பழம்படு பனையிந் கிழங்கு பிளந்தன்ன
  பவளக் கூர்வாய்ச் செங்கால் நாராய்"
  (Oh, crimson-legged crane so bright, with coral beak, a dawn's delight, Like Palmyrah tuber split wide and true)
- The palm tree, Tamil Nadu's state tree, holds significant cultural value and plays an important role in climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. The Palm Tree Development Scheme has been active for four years to increase the number of palm trees in the state.

Tamil Nadu Cashew Board:

- Cashew cultivation is significant in districts like Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Pudukkottai, and Theni. Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in Cashew production but second in exports. The establishment of the Tamil Nadu Cashew Board Board with ₹10 crore will encourage the expansion of Cashew farming and protect the interests of workers involved in the Cashew industry.

Nannilam Women Land Ownership Scheme:

- A fund of ₹20 crore will be allocated to implement the "Nannilam Women Land Ownership Scheme" for women farmers belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.

6. 8th Pay Commission for Central Government Employees

- The Central Government has approved the formation of the 8th Pay Commission (effective January 2025) to revise the pay structure of central government employees and pensioners.
- The 7th Pay Commission was established in 2016. As its tenure is set to end in 2026, the government has now taken the decision to form the next commission.
- It is customary for the Central Government to set up a Pay Commission every 10 years to revise the salary structure of its employees.
- Since 1947, the Central Government has established seven Pay Commissions so far.

7. NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (FHI)

- In the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) released by NITI Aayog, mineral-rich states such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand have emerged at the top.
- For the first time, the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) was released based on the contribution of states to India's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP), population, total public expenditure, revenue, and overall fiscal sustainability.
- Odisha ranks first among fiscally strong states with a score of 67.8.
- Other states listed under the "Achiever" category include Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- States like Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Haryana have been classified under the "performer" category.
- States facing challenges such as fiscal deficits and unsustainable debt levels - including Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala — have been categorized

under the "Aspirational States" group.

8. India Aligns Customs Duties with ASEAN Levels

- Sanjay Agarwal, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), announced that India's average customs duty rate has been reduced from 11.65% to 10.66%.
- With this reduction, India is moving closer to aligning its customs duty rates with those of ASEAN countries, which include Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and others.
- In the Union Budget for the financial year 2025–26, presented on February 1st, the finance minister announced the removal of seven types of customs duties.

9. Reduction in Repo Rate

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a reduction of 0.25% in the repo rate, bringing it down to 6.25%.
- This is the first cut in the repo rate in five years, making it a significant development.
- For the financial year 2025–26, the RBI has projected the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate to be 6.7% and the inflation rate to be 4.2%.
- Economic growth across the four quarters of FY 2025–26 is expected to be 6.7%, 7%, 6.5%, and 6.5%, respectively, according to RBI estimates.

10. Technology Acquisition Fund (TAF)

- Recently, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) introduced a new fund called the **Technology Acquisition Fund (TAF)**.
- The fund is backed by ₹500 crore and is aimed at supporting the growth of India's space startups.
- Its primary objectives are to accelerate the development of indigenous space technologies and to reduce dependence on imported solutions.

11. Women's Loans

- Over the past five years, the number of women availing loans from banks and financial institutions has increased by 22%.
- A report on women's contribution to India's economic growth was released in Delhi by NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.
- The number of women opening accounts for business purposes has risen by 4.6% compared to 2019.
- Notably, 60% of women borrowers are from tier-2 cities and rural areas.

12. India's Path Toward a High-Income Economy

- A World Bank report titled "Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation" states that India must achieve an average annual growth rate of **7.8% over the next 22 years** to attain high-income country (HIC) status by **2047**.
- India's share in the global economy has doubled from **1.6% in 2000** to **3.4% in 2023**, making it the **fifth-largest economy** in the world.
- India has officially set the goal of becoming a high-income country by **its 100th year of independence in 2047**.
- To reach this status, India's **per capita Gross National Income (GNI)** needs to increase nearly **eightfold**, from **$2,540 in 2023** to the required threshold for high-income classification.

13. 48% Increase in Women's Employment in India

- In the current year (2025), women's employment in India has increased by **48%**.
- The rise is especially notable in **tier-2 and tier-3 cities**, following state capitals.
- **Information Technology (IT), computer science, and software-related sectors** continue to dominate women's employment, accounting for **34%** of the total jobs held by women.

14. 8th Economic Census in India

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) conducts the Economic Census every **five years**.
- The **8th Economic Census** is scheduled to be conducted from **April to December 2025**.
- India's first Economic Census was conducted in **1977** across all states and Union Territories (except Lakshadweep), in collaboration with state governments.
- MoSPI is responsible for conducting the Economic Census, which was subsequently held in the years **1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 2013**, and **2020**.

15. Equalisation Levy (Google Tax)

- The Indian government has proposed the **removal of the Equalisation Levy**, also known as the **digital tax**, which applies to online advertisements on platforms like **Google and Meta**.
- **Objective:** This move aims to demonstrate a **more cooperative stance toward the United States**, especially in light of ongoing concerns over reciprocal tariffs starting from **April 2**.
- Introduced in **2016**, the Equalisation Levy was meant to **tax income earned by foreign e-commerce companies** from

Indian users through digital transactions.

- Initially targeted at **online advertisements**, the levy was later **expanded in the Finance Act of 2020** to include **e-commerce services**.
- It primarily taxes **business-to-business (B2B) digital transactions** and is commonly referred to as the "**Google Tax**".

16. Finance Bill 2025

- The Finance Bill 2025 was passed in the Lok Sabha with **35 amendments** from the Central Government, including the **removal of the 6% tax on online advertisements**.
- The Finance Bill 2025 has reduced the tax burden to an unprecedented level. It is estimated with strong data that **personal income tax collection will grow by 13.14%** in the next financial year.
- Given the uncertain international economic environment, the bill includes the amendment to **remove the 6% tax on online advertisements** as a measure to counter potential challenges.

17. India Becomes the World's Second-Largest Tea Exporter in 2024

- According to the Tea Board of India, India has emerged as the world's **second-largest tea exporter**.

- In 2024, India's tea exports amounted to **255 million kilograms**, placing it second after Sri Lanka and ahead of Kenya.
- The export value increased by **15%**, rising from **₹6,161 crore in 2023** to **₹7,111 crore in 2024**.

18. India's Coffee Production

- For the crop year ending in March 2025, India's coffee production is expected to reach **352,000 metric tonnes**, with higher yields anticipated due to adequate flowering that benefits the coffee berry borer control.
- India ranks as the **seventh-largest coffee producer** globally. In the financial year 2023-24, coffee exports reached **$1.29 billion**, nearly double the **$719.42 million** recorded in 2020-21.
- Coffee cultivation in India is mainly concentrated in the Western and Eastern Ghats with diverse flora. **Karnataka** is the largest producer, followed by **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu**.

19. Cotton in India

- Once the world's leading cotton producer and a major exporter, India has now become a **net importer of cotton**.
- India's cotton production nearly **tripled** from **13.6 million bales in 2002-03** to

39.8 million bales in 2013-14.

- However, after 2014, cotton production declined. The estimate for 2024-25 is **29.5 million bales**, the lowest since **2008-09**.

20. Tamil Nadu Reaches New Economic Peak with 9.69% Growth!

- In the financial year 2024-25, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest growth rate in India with a **real growth rate of 9.69%**.
- This is also the highest growth rate Tamil Nadu has achieved in the past decade.
- Tamil Nadu is projected to become a **one trillion-dollar economy by 2032-33**.
- According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) increased from **₹15,71,368 crore in 2023-24** to **₹17,23,698 crore in 2024-25**.
- Previously, Tamil Nadu's highest growth rate was **8.59% in 2017-18**.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, the growth rate dropped to a low of **0.07%**.

21. India's Retail Inflation Hits a Six-Year Low

- India's retail inflation for the financial year 2024-25 has decreased to **4.6%**, the lowest since 2018-19.
- Retail inflation is measured using the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, which calculates the average price of a basket of consumer goods and services.
- The CPI monitors the prices of a fixed set of goods and services, and its movements indicate inflation trends, impacting purchasing power and economic policy decisions.

22. NITI Aayog Report on MSMEs in India

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with a competitiveness organization, has released a comprehensive report identifying the key challenges hindering MSME growth and proposing strategic reforms to enhance their competitiveness and economic impact.

According to the report:

- Over **90% of MSMEs in India** operate as informal enterprises.
- Despite initiatives like the **Udyam Portal** (95 lakh registrations vs. 63.4 million total MSMEs), high compliance costs and regulatory burdens prevent many from formalizing, restricting access to credit, schemes, and global value chains.
- Access to credit has improved from **14% to 20% for micro/small firms** and **4% to 9% for medium firms** during

2020–2024, but significant credit gaps persist.

- From 2014 to 2022, skilled labor increased by **19.94% in small firms**, **20% in medium firms**, and **12.72% in large firms** (World Bank data).

- However, there is a **3.9% decline in knowledge-based employment**, indicating notable skill mismatches.

- MSMEs face barriers in product diversification due to **low market awareness, lack of technological know-how, high costs for machinery, and marketing**.

- Although India ranks **40th in the 2023 Global Innovation Index**, MSMEs struggle with limited access to advanced technology, high costs, and unreliable infrastructure.

- These issues limit MSMEs' scale and integration into global value chains.

- Only **6% of MSMEs use e-commerce**, and just **45% have adopted AI**.

- Despite schemes like **ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme)** and **Startup India**, MSMEs face difficulties accessing and fully utilizing government programs due to low awareness and understanding.

- This reflects the low representation of medium enterprises: **97.92% of MSMEs are micro**, **1.89% small**, and only **0.01% medium**.

The gap is driven by stringent regulations, high compliance costs, limited financial access, and low productivity.

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APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

1. ISRO's New Chairman V. Narayanan

- V. Narayanan has been appointed as the 11th chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The 10th chairman was S. Somanath.
- He will hold this position for the next two years.
- He hails from the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
- V. Narayanan is the director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) in Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram.
- He graduated from IIT Kharagpur.

Tamilians in ISRO

- Tamilians have played key roles in ISRO. The late former President Abdul Kalam, who launched the 'Rohini-2' satellite, significantly contributed to the research of solid rocket propellants.
- Mayilsamy Annadurai served as the project director for Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan satellites.
- N. Valarmathi was the project director for RISAT-12.
- K. Sivan, from Kanyakumari district, served as the 9th chairman of ISRO.
- Vanitha Muthayya was the project director for Chandrayaan-2.
- Nigar Shaji served as the project director for Aditya-L1, a mission to study the sun, and P. Veeramuthuvel was the director of Chandrayaan-3, which earned the distinction of being the first mission to reach the Moon's south pole.
- These contributions by several Tamilians in ISRO are noteworthy.

2. National Turmeric Board

- The National Turmeric Board was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- Mr. Palle Ganga Reddy has been appointed as the first chairman of the board.
- The board's headquarters is established in Nizamabad, Telangana.

Turmeric

- Turmeric is also known as the "Golden Spice."
- The newly formed board will focus especially on the welfare of turmeric farmers in states such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya.
- India accounts for 70% of the global turmeric production.
- Around 30 varieties of turmeric are produced in India.

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3. Three-Member Committee to Review Pension Schemes

- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed a three-member committee, led by Rural Development Secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi, to conduct a detailed study of the three pension schemes for government employees — the Old Pension Scheme, the Contributory Pension Scheme, and the Integrated Pension Scheme — and submit a report to the government.
- The committee members include Rural Development Secretary Kakan Deep Singh Bedi, former Director of Madras School of Economics K.R. Shanmugam, and Finance Department Deputy Secretary Pratik Tayal.
- Since April 1, 2003, the Contributory Pension Scheme has been introduced for state government employees.
- Similarly, the National Pension Scheme was introduced for central government employees from January 1, 2004.
- However, state government employees have been continuously demanding the continuation of the pension scheme that was in effect before April 1, 2003.

4. Appointment of Former Judge Rajamanickam as Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Chief

- The Tamil Nadu government has appointed former High Court judge P. Rajamanickam, who served as a judicial member, as the head of the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta.
- Rajamanickam, appointed as the Lokayukta chief, will hold the position until April 17, 2027.
- For the vacant judicial member positions, V. Ramaraj, chairman of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission from Namakkal district, and Arumuga Mohan Alangamani, former member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, have been selected and appointed.
- The new members will serve for five years or until they reach 70 years of age, whichever comes first.

5. State Commission for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare

- In 2020, the Tamil Nadu government issued an order to establish the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, appointing writer Imayam (V. Annamalai), who won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *Selladha Panam*, as the Deputy Chairperson.
- To legally safeguard the rights of Adi Dravidar and tribal communities and address their key issues, the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar-Tribal Welfare

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Commission was created in 2021.

- Under the Tamil Nadu SC/ST Commission Act, 2021, the state government formed the commission, appointing a retired Chennai High Court judge as Chairperson along with six other members, including the Deputy Chairperson, for a term of three years.
- P.R. Sivakumar served as the Chairperson of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Commission until May last year when he retired.
- Following his retirement, retired Chennai High Court judge S. Thamizhvanan was appointed as the new Chairperson for a three-year term.
- Currently, the terms of the Deputy Chairperson and members of the commission have expired. Consequently, writer Imayam (V. Annamalai) has been appointed as the new Deputy Chairperson of the commission.

6. New Chief Election Commissioner

- Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner. He will hold the position until January 26, 2029.
- The selection committee of Election Commissioner is consists of the Prime Minister

(Chairperson), the union home minister, and the Leader of the Opposition.

- Additionally, IAS officer Vivek Joshi from Haryana has been appointed as an Election Commissioner in 1989 batch.
- Previously, Rajiv Kumar retired as the Chief Election Commissioner on February 18.

7. NITI Aayog

- As per the order from the Ministry of Personnel, the Central Government has extended the tenure of B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, by one year.
- Subramaniam, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1987 batch from Chhattisgarh, was appointed to this position for a two-year term in February 2023.

8. Chief Economic Advisor's Term Extended by 2 Years!

- The term of the Chief Economic Advisor to the Central Government, V. Anantha Nageswaran, has been extended by an additional 2 years, until March 31, 2027.
- V. Anantha Nageswaran was appointed as the Chief Economic Advisor to the Central Government on January 28, 2022, with a three-year term. He succeeded K.V. Subramanian in this position.

- The Office of the Chief Economic Advisor is responsible for formulating various economic policies and providing advice to the Central Government.
- It also prepares the Economic Survey that is presented before the general budget.

9. Dinesh Khara Committee

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a high-powered committee of seven members, headed by Dinesh Khara, former Chairman of the State Bank of India.
- The committee has been set up to examine and recommend amendments to various provisions of the Insurance Act of 1938.

10. R. Balakrishnan Appointed as Head of International Institute of Tamil Studies

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has appointed R. Balakrishnan as the head of the International Institute of Tamil Studies located in Tharamani, Chennai.
- R. Balakrishnan is a renowned Tamil scholar and an expert in administrative services.
- He is the first Tamil student to have passed the civil services examination in Tamil.

11. Shaktikanta Das Appointed as Second Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister

- Shaktikanta Das, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been appointed as the second Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Senior IAS officer P.K. Misra has been serving as the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary since September 11, 2019. Shaktikanta Das will serve alongside him as Principal Secretary-2.
- This is the first time that two individuals have been appointed as Principal Secretaries to the Prime Minister.

12. New Chief of SEBI

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The current SEBI Chairman, Madhabi Puri Buch, is completing her three-year term on February 28, after which the central government has made this appointment.

13. National Task Force Formed by Supreme Court to Prevent Student Suicides

- The Supreme Court has ordered the formation of a national task force headed by

former Supreme Court judge S. Ravindra Bhat to provide recommendations to prevent student suicides in higher education institutions.

- The task force includes ex-officio members from the State Higher Education Department, Social Justice and Empowerment, Legal Affairs, Women and Child Development Departments.
- According to the NCRB 2022 report, student suicides accounted for 7.6% of total suicides in India in 2022.
- Maharashtra recorded the highest number of student suicides, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Odisha.

14. Nidhi Tiwari Appointed as Prime Minister's Private Secretary

- Nidhi Tewari has been appointed as the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.
- She will oversee the Prime Minister's daily administrative work.
- Specifically, she will arrange meetings the Prime Minister attends, as well as his domestic and international travels.
- She will act as a link between the Prime Minister's Office and other departments of the Central Government.
- Nidhi Tiwari will also be part of the high-level committee that formulates policy decisions for the Central Government.

- Senior IAS officers Vivek Kumar and Hardik Satishchandra Shah are already serving as Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister.

15. Economic Expert Poonam Gupta Appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank

- The Central Government has appointed economic expert Poonam Gupta as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The term of the previous Deputy Governor, M.D. Patra, ended in January.
- Poonam Gupta, who serves as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), has received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Appointments for the RBI Deputy Governor position.
- Her tenure as Deputy Governor will be for three years.

16. Former Judge Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed as Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission

- Former Supreme Court Judge Dinesh Maheshwari has been appointed as the Chairperson of the nation's 23rd Law Commission.
- Along with him, Advocate Hitesh Jain and Professor T.P. Varma have been appointed as

full-time members with the approval of the Prime Minister.

- The 23rd Law Commission was established in September last year.
- The primary role of this commission will be to explore the feasibility of introducing a general civil code in the country.

17. B.R. Gavai to be the Next Chief Justice of India

- Sanjiv Khanna, who took oath as the 51st Chief Justice of India on November 11 last year, is set to retire on May 13.
- Following this, Sanjiv Khanna has sent a recommendation letter to the Law Ministry to appoint the next senior-most judge, B.R. Gavai (Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai), as the new Chief Justice.
- Upon approval by the central government, B.R. Gavai will be sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14.
- He will serve as Chief Justice for approximately six months, retiring on November 23. (The retirement age for Supreme Court judges is 65.)
- Notably, B.R. Gavai will be the second Dalit judge to assume the position of Chief Justice of India after former Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.

18. National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

- The government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).
- Former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as the chairman of the board.
- Additionally, seven other members have been appointed, with future appointments based on evolving national security needs.
- Established in 1998, the NSAB functions under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

AWARDS

1. Tamil Nadu Government Awards Announcement

- The Tamil Nadu Government has announced its annual awards, which will be presented by the Chief Minister on Thiruvalluvar Day, observed on January 15. The **Thiruvalluvar Award for the year 2025** will be conferred upon **Pulavar Mu. Padikkaram**.

The awards for the year 2024 are as follows:

1. **Kalaignar Award** – Muthu Vavasi
2. **Anna Award** – L. Ganesan
3. **Bharathiyar Award** – Poet Kapilan
4. **Bharathidasan Award** – Pon. Selvaganapathy
5. **Thiru. Vi. Ka. Award** – Dr. G. R. Ravindranath
6. **K.A.P. Viswanatham Award** – Mu. Pothiyaverpan
7. **Periyar Award** – Viduthalai Rajendran
8. **Ambedkar Award** – MP Ravikumar

2. Tamil Development Department Awards

- **Kapilar Award** – Poet Mutharasan
- **U. V. Swaminatha Iyer (U.Ve.Sa.) Award** – Dr. A. Ramanathan
- **Kambar Award** – Dr. M. P. Srinivasan
- **Sollin Selvar Award** – Dr. I. Sa. Parveen Sultana
- **Umaru Pulavar Award** – Tha. Syed Khadhar Hussain
- **G. U. Pope Award** – Dr. Ve. Murugan
- **Ilango Adigal Award –** Dr. Silambu N. Selvarasu
- **Amma Literary Award –** Dr. Sarala Rajagopalan
- **Singaravelar Award –** Mu. Subramani
- **Ayothidasar Pandithar Award –** Dr. Mu. Sachithanandham
- **Maraimalai Adigal Award –** Poet Ramalingam
- **Arutperunjothi Vallalar Award –** Dr. P. Arulselvi **Karaikkal Ammaiyar Award –** Dr. Ki. Manjula
- **Si. Pa. Adithanar Weekly Award –** Sattak Kathir (Editor: Dr. V. R. S. Sampath)
- **Chief Minister's Tamil Computing Award –** Dr. Ra. Akilan (for developing software on Sangam literature morphology)
- **Tamilthai Award for the year 2023 –** Conferred upon the Tenkasi Thiruvalluvar Kazhagam

3. Kamarajar Award

- Since 2006, the **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar**

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Award has been presented to an individual who follows in the footsteps of the great leader Kamarajar, who transformed Tamil society through historic initiatives such as opening schools across the streets, introducing the free education scheme, and implementing the mid-day meal program—enabling society to advance with the guiding light of education.

- The **Kamarajar Award for the year 2024** has been announced by the Tamil Nadu Government to be conferred upon **K. V. Thangabalu**, former Union Minister and former President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.

4. Marathi Officially Granted Classical Language Status

- A few months after granting classical language status to Marathi, the Central Government has now issued the official notification confirming the status.
- Recently, on **October 3, 2024**, the **Union Cabinet** granted **classical language status** to **Marathi**, along with **Pali**, **Prakrit**, **Assamese**, and **Bengali**, thereby raising the total number of classical languages in India to **eleven**.

Key Points:

- Previously, India had six classical languages: **Tamil**, **Sanskrit**, **Telugu**, **Kannada**, **Malayalam**, and **Odia**.
- The years these languages were declared classical are as follows: **Tamil** in 2004, **Sanskrit** in 2005, **Kannada** in 2008, **Telugu** in 2008, **Malayalam** in 2013, **Odia** in 2014
- All classical languages are listed in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution.

5. Harivarasanam Award

- **Kaithapram Damodaran Namboothiri**, a renowned Malayalam music composer and lyricist, was conferred with the **Harivarasanam Award** on **January 15**.
- This award, instituted by the **Government of Kerala** and the **Travancore Devaswom Board**, has been presented annually since **2012**.
- The **first recipient in 2012** was legendary playback singer **K. J. Yesudas**.

Notable Recipients Include:

- **P. Jayachandran** (2014) – Playback Singer
- **S. P. Balasubrahmanyam** (2015) – Playback Singer
- **Gangai Amaran** (2017) – Music Composer
- **K. S. Chithra** (2018) – Playback Singer
- **P. Susheela** (2019) – Playback Singer
- **Ilaiyaraaja** (2020) – Music Composer

- **Veeramanidasan** (2024) – Devotional Singer

6. Padma Awards 2025

- The **Padma Awards**, among the highest civilian honors in India, are presented in three categories: **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri**
- For the year **2025**, the **President of India has approved a total of 139 Padma Awards**.
  - **7 recipients** for **Padma Vibhushan**
  - **19 recipients** for **Padma Bhushan**
  - **113 recipients** for **Padma Shri**

Awardees from Tamil Nadu:

- **Thiru Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti** – Awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in the field of **Trade and Industry**
- **Thiru A. Ajith Kumar** and **Tmt. Shobana Chandrakumar** – Awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in the field of **Arts**
- **Thiru R. Ashwin** – Awarded the **Padma Shri** in the field of **Sports**

7. 2024 ICC Awards – Bumrah Named Best Male Cricketer; Amelia Kerr Best Female Cricketer

- Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** has been named the **ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year** for 2024.
- The **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year** award has been won by **Amelia Kerr**, the New Zealand all-rounder.
- Jasprit Bumrah has also earned the prestigious **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy**, becoming the **fifth Indian cricketer** to receive this honor.

Previous Indian winners of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy:

- **Rahul Dravid** – 2004
- **Sachin Tendulkar** – 2010
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** – 2016
- **Virat Kohli** – 2017, 2018

8. Lifetime Achievement Award for Sachin Tendulkar

- Indian cricket legend **Sachin Tendulkar** is set to receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- The **BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award** was instituted in **1994** in honor of **C. K. Nayudu**, the first captain of the Indian cricket team.
- **Sachin Tendulkar was be the 31st recipient** of this prestigious award.

9. Tamil Nadu Ranked First in Implementation of Panchayat Schemes

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has proudly announced that the state ranks **first in the country** in implementing panchayat-level responsibilities and schemes, as highlighted in a **recent report by the Central Government**.

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- Tamil Nadu leads in effectively carrying out the **duties and responsibilities of panchayats** and in the **devolution of powers** for implementing local governance schemes.
- According to the **performance indicators assessment**, Tamil Nadu scored the **highest marks** and secured:
  - **2nd place** in **capacity building** and **functional performance**
  - **3rd place** in **financial devolution and transactions**
- Overall, based on the **composite index**, Tamil Nadu stands at **3rd place** in the **national ranking of states**.

10. Perasiriyar Anbazhagan Award

- The **Perasiriyar Anbazhagan Award** was introduced in the **2023–24 academic year** to recognize outstanding government schools that demonstrate multifaceted excellence in areas such as **innovative teaching-learning methods**, **teacher skill development**, **leadership**, and **student progress**.
- To honor the centenary of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the installation of his **bronze statue** at the **DPI (Directorate of Public Instruction) campus**. The campus will also be renamed the **"Perasiriyar Anbazhagan Kalvi Valagam,"** as declared by the Chief Minister.

11. Kamarajar Award

- Since **2016**, the **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award** along with a cash prize has been presented in Tamil Nadu to students studying in government and government-aided schools in Tamil medium who excel academically and in co-curricular activities in **Plus Two (12th grade)** and **10th grade**.
- Each district awards the **Kamarajar Award and a certificate of appreciation** to a total of **30 students**: 15 students who perform exceptionally in the 10th grade and 15 students who excel in Plus Two.
- The award includes an incentive of **₹20,000 for Plus Two students** and **₹10,000 for 10th grade students**.

12. Prime Minister's Awards

- The **Prime Minister's Awards** have been presented since **2006** to recognize exceptional work by districts and organizations of both Central and State Governments.
- This scheme was restructured in **2014** and **2020**, and further updated in **2021** to focus on **good governance**, **quality achievements**, and **last-mile connectivity**.

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- The awards for the year **2024** will be conferred in the following three categories to acknowledge contributions:
  - **Holistic Development of Districts**
  - **Aspirational Blocks Program**
  - **Innovations**

13. 'Tamizh Semmal' Award

- The Tamil Nadu Government honors individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to the Tamil language by conferring various awards and recognitions to celebrate their Tamil service.
- Accordingly, since **2015**, one person per district is selected to receive the **'Tamizh Semmal' Award**, which includes a **cash prize of ₹25,000** and a certificate.
- This award is given annually to Tamil scholars who have rendered service to the Tamil language at the district level.
- Each awardee receives a **cash prize of ₹25,000** along with a certificate of appreciation.

14. Kalaichemmal awardsfor Six Talented Artists in Painting and Sculpture

- For the year **2024-2025**, six artists have been selected for the **Kalaichemmal awards**:
  - **Traditional Art category:** Manivelu A
  - **Traditional Sculpture category:** L. Balachandar and K. Kanniyappan
  - **Modern Art category:** K. Muralidharan and A. Selvaraj
  - **Modern Sculpture category:** R. Raghavan

About the Kalaichemmal awards:

- The **Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Art and Culture** annually honors talented artists in **traditional painting**, **modern style painting**, and **sculpture arts** with the **Kalaichemmal awards**.
- The awardees receive a **shawl**, a **cash prize of ₹1,00,000**, and a **certificate of appreciation** as recognition.
- Every year, **six distinguished artists** are honored with this award.

15. "Kalaignar Ezhuthukol" Award

- The **"Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award"** is presented annually to an outstanding journalist who has contributed significantly to social development and the upliftment of marginalized communities. The award includes a **cash prize of ₹5 lakh** and a **certificate of appreciation**. This was announced as part of the **2021-22 Public Relations Department grant request**.

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- In implementation of this announcement, the **2021 Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award** was presented to senior journalist **Shanmuganathan**, and the **2022 award** was given to senior journalist **V. N. Samy**.
- For the **2023 Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award**, two recipients were selected: **Nakkiran Gopal** and **Sugitha Sarangaraj**, the latter having over 18 years of extensive experience working in various television networks.

16. Navratna Status for IRCTC

- The Central Government has approved granting **Navratna status** to the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and the **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)**, both public sector enterprises.
- Currently, the total number of Navratna public sector companies in India has increased to **26**.
- Public sector companies with Navratna status can invest up to **₹1,000 crore** in a project without requiring prior approval from the Central Government.
- The Government of India classifies central public sector enterprises into three categories: **Maharatna**, **Navratna**, and **Miniratna**.

17. Nellai Lecturer Selected for Sahitya Akademi Award for Best Translation

- **Lecturer Vimala** from **St. Xavier's College, Palayangottai** has been selected for the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for Best Translation.
- She is being awarded for translating the Malayalam book **'Enda Aangal'** into Tamil.
- The original Malayalam book **"Ente Anungal"**, written by Malayalam author Nalini Jamila, was translated into Tamil by Lecturer Vimala under the title **"Enatu Ankal"** and has been chosen for the Sahitya Akademi Award.

18. Digital Transformation Award 2025for Reserve Bank of India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been selected for the **Digital Transformation Award 2025** by the **Central Banking, London, UK**.
- The award and recognition were given for RBI's pioneering efforts, including the development of the **PRAVAAH** and **SARTHI** systems by the Reserve Bank group.

19. 59th Jnanpith Award

- Hindi writer **Vinod Kumar Shukla** from **Chhattisgarh** has been selected for the **59th Jnanpith Award**.
- The **Bharatiya Jnanpith Research and History Organization** was established

in **1944**. The Jnanpith Award is presented under the auspices of this organization.
- It is considered the **highest literary honor in India**.
- The first Jnanpith Award was given in **1965** to **G. Sankara Kurup** from Kerala.

20. Reduction in Child Mortality Rate: UN Appreciation for India
- The United Nations has praised India for its exemplary efforts in reducing preventable child deaths.
- The UN also highlighted India's investments in the healthcare system and the role of the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme, which has helped save millions of young lives.
- India, along with Nepal, Senegal, Ghana, and Burundi, is recognized as one of the five countries performing exceptionally well in reducing preventable child mortality rates (model countries).

21. Chief Minister's State Youth Award
- To recognize the service of youth involved in **community development**, the **Government of Tamil Nadu** presents the **Chief Minister's State Youth Award** annually on **Independence Day** (August 15).
- The award is given to **3 men and 3 women** between the ages of **15 and 35**.

- Selected recipients are honored with a **certificate**, **medal**, and a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh** each.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Applicants must have **resided in Tamil Nadu for at least 5 years**.
- They must have **voluntarily contributed to community welfare**, and their contributions must be **identifiable and measurable**.
- Employees of the **Central or State Governments**, **public sector undertakings**, **universities**, **colleges**, or **schools** are **not eligible** to apply for this award.

22. Best Transgender Award
- Every year, an award is presented to a **transgender individual** who has worked tirelessly for the **welfare of the transgender community** and has served as a **role model in society**.
- This award is presented annually on **Transgender Day** (April 15) and includes a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh** and a **certificate of recognition**.
- For the current year, the award was presented by the **Chief Minister** to: **A. Revathi** from **Namakkal district, K. Ponni** from **Thoothukudi district.**

23. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
- Olympians **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag**

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Shetty have been honored with the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.

- This is considered **India's highest sporting honor**, awarded in memory of Indian hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** (1905–1979).
- The award was instituted in **1991–92** and is presented to athletes who have demonstrated **outstanding performance over a four-year period**.
- Notable past recipients of this prestigious award include **M.C. Mary Kom, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, P.V. Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Vijender Singh, Sachin Tendulkar**, and **Virat Kohli**.

24. World Food Prize 2025

- **Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria** has been announced as the **recipient of the 2025 World Food Prize**.
- She developed **seed and soil treatments** using beneficial bacteria such as **Rhizobium** and **Azospirillum brasilense**.
- Her discoveries help **soybeans naturally fix nitrogen**, promote **root growth in crops like maize**, and enhance **nutrient and water absorption**.
- The **World Food Prize** was established in **1986** by **Dr. Norman E. Borlaug**, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

- It is often referred to as the **"Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture"**.

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GROUP 1 TOPPERS - 2024

RANK 03 HARI PRIYANKKA

RANK 11 DIVYA PERUMAL

RANK 13 HARSHA UNNI KRISHNAN

RANK 28 SATHIYA NARAYANAN

GROUP 1 TOPPERS - 2023

RANK 01 MARUTHIP PRIYA.R

RANK 20 DEEPIKA. A

RANK 30 BHAVADHARANI.R

RANK 34 PECHIYAAMMAL. M

RANK 41 ILLANCHEZHIAN

RANK 43 NALINI. S

RANK 88 FRANCIS SAHAYA AROCKIA MARY

GROUP 1 TOPPERS - 2022

Ms.SATHYANANDHI.G RANK -2 DEPUTY COLLECTOR

Ms.SUBHALAKSHMI.S RANK -4 DEPUTY COLLECTOR

Ms.KRITHIKA.K RANK -18 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER COMMERCIAL TAX

Ms.K.RAMALI RAMALAKSHMI RANK -22 DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Mr.VIGNESH.C RANK -25 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms.Anjali Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Mr.Vijay Local Fund Audit

Ms.Prasannavadhani Hindu Religious

Ms.Rajeswari Senior Co-Operative Inspector

Ms.Nizanthi Asst.Inspector Co-Operative

Mr.Vignesh Asst.Inspector Local Fund Audit

Mrs.E.BanupriyaM.E., District Fire Officer

Mr.Praveen Kumar Asst.Jailer

Ms.T.Supriya Local Fund Audit

Mr.S.Balakangathara Thilagar Senior Ins. Co-op. Society

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