

# VIJAYAKUMAR IAS ACADEMY

**JANUARY 2025**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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## TAMILNADU

### 1. Thirukkural Week:

- Government announced that every year 'the last week of December will be celebrated as Kural Week'.
- It has been 25 years since the installation of Thiruvalluvar statue which was inaugurated by Earlier Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi and now the silver jubilee has been celebrated

### 2. Organ donation in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu continues to stand first in organ donation in India.
- On September 23, 2023, the Chief Minister announced that the body of the organ donors would be respected on behalf of the government.
- On September 23, observed as Organ Donation Day in Tamil Nadu. Related news
- TRANSTAN:
- Tamil Nadu is one of the first States to initiate Cadaver Transplant in 1995 after the Transplantation of Human Organs Act was passed in the year 1994.
- Cadaver Transplant Program was started by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar.M.Karunanidhi in the year of 2008.

### 3. Country's first sea glass bridge

- India's first glass bridge connecting the Vivekananda rock and Valluvar statue at Kanyakumari was opened.

## TN GOVT SCHEMES

### 4.MAKKALUDAN MUDHALVAR

- launched on December 18, 2023 in Coimbatore.
- **Idhayam Kappom Thittam**
- launched on June 27, 2023
- AIM: to provide cardiac loading doses (aspirin, clopidogrel and atorvastatin) at PHCs/HSCs to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness.

### 5.Idhayam Kappom Thittam

- launched on June 27, 2023
- **AIM:** to provide cardiac loading doses (aspirin, clopidogrel and atorvastatin) at PHCs/HSCs **to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness**

### 6.KALAIGAR KANAVU ILLAM

- To create a 'Hut-Free Tamil Nadu' by 2030, a new scheme called Kalaingar Kanavu Illam is launched on 15 september 2023.
- AIM: to construct eight lakh concrete houses in rural areas over the period of 6 years

### 7.KALAIGNAR MAGLIR URUMAI THITTAM (Kalaingar Women's Rights Grant Scheme).

- The Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam that provides a monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000 for eligible woman heads of families
- Launched on 15th September 2023

### **7. Makalir Vidyal Payanam Thittam**

- launched in May 2021
- Provides free travel to women.
- The scheme helps women save around Rs 888 per month on transportation expenses under the Vidiyal payanam thittam launched in Tamil Nadu.
- Scheme has been extended to transgender persons.

### **8. Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme**

- Launched on February 19, 2024.
- Works Under the rural development and panchayati raj department
- AIM: rescuing five lakhs "poorest families" from poverty.
- In addition to fulfilling their basic needs, the requirements of education, employment opportunities, skill development and housing.
- BENEFICIARY: most vulnerable sections of the society including destitute, elderly people living alone, single-parent families, orphaned children, mentally challenge, differently-abled persons, and families with children requiring special assistance.
- The Niti Aayog Report which gave a multidimensional poverty index of just 2.2% to the state.
- It is much lower than the national average of 14.96 percent.

### **9. Naan Mudhalvan Thittam**

- It was launched on 1st March, 2022.

#### **Objective**

- The objective of the scheme is to equip about 10 lakh youth in the State with skills that will help them realize their potential for the benefit of the nation every year.

### **10. 'Innuvir Kappom nammai kaakum 48' Thittam**

- launched in 2021 at Melmaruvathur in Chengalpattu district.

#### **objective**

- It is a scheme to provide financial assistance to the injured in road accidents for the first 48 hours.
- The sum insured under this scheme is Rs. 1 lakh has been increased to 2 lakhs.
- BENEFICIARY: free medical treatment will be provided to all, including those who have the Chief Minister's Medical Insurance Card, those who do not, those from other states, and foreigners, only for road accidents occurring within the borders of Tamil Nadu.

### **11. Puthumai pen thittam**

- Aim: To increase enrollment in higher education.

- **BENEFICIARY:** female students who completed Classes VI to XII in government schools (in Tamil medium) AND GOVT AIDED SCHOOLS
- Under the puthumai pen thittam Salem (8.9 percent) recorded the highest increase in college enrollment, followed by Chennai (5.8 percent), Dharmapuri (5.5 percent), Tiruvannamalai (5.2 percent), Namakkal (4.8 percent) and Cuddalore (4.1 percent).
- enrolment percentage of girl students in higher education has increased by 34% due to the Pudhumani Penn scheme.
- Scheme also known as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Program, was launched on September 5, 2022.
- state government has extended both the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Puthumai Penn Thittam and the Tamil Puthalvan scheme, which grants Rs 1,000 a month to students from government schools pursuing higher education, to transgender students.
- Previously, the Puthumai Penn Thittam covered only girl students, while the Tamil Puthalvan scheme was open to all students.
- Both schemes now appear to be accessible to trans persons.

#### Related News

- Pudhumai Penn Thittam – 05.09.2022 (Chennai)
- Pudhumai Penn Project Phase-II – Tiruvallur

- Tamilputhalvavan Scheme – 09.08.2024 (Coimbatore)

#### 12. **Makkalai thedi maruthuvam**

- Launched on 05.08.2021
- Inaugurated at Jain School in Krishnagiri District.
- **BENEFICIARY:** Screening people over 45 years of age and people with disabilities through regular door-to-door screening and detection of non-communicable diseases.

#### 13. **NammaSchool Namma Ooru Palli**

- Launched on December 19, 2022
- **AIM:** of improving the infrastructure of the state government-run schools.
- The Namma School Namma Ooru Palli (NSNOP) project is a scheme of the Tamil Nadu government to improve government schools with the participation of the community and corporates.
- " School window" is a platform for those who studied in government schools to relive their school memories and continue to work with their school for its improvement. It is also a way to participate in the progress of government schools through Namma School Namma Ooru Palli



## INDIA

### 1. Wi-Fi service on flights

- For the first time in India, Air India has announced that it will provide Wi-Fi (wireless internet) on select domestic and international flights.
- With this, Air India has become the first airline to provide free internet service on flights within India

### 2. YEAR OF REFORMS 2025

- 2025 will be observed as a year of reform with the aim of making the three forces technologically advanced and ready for combat, according to the Union Ministry of Defence.

### 3. Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

- Grameen Bharat Mahotsav which will be held from January 4 to 9.
- Mahotsav will celebrate rural India's "entrepreneurial spirit and cultural heritage"
- Objective: include promoting economic stability and financial security among rural populations, with a special focus on North-East India, by addressing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable agricultural practices
- Theme: 'Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047.

### 4. BHARATPOL

- Developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),

- the portal allows central and state agencies to connect with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for real-time information sharing, replacing the previous system where only the CBI had this access.
- BHARATPOL streamlines international assistance to tackle rising transnational crimes like cybercrime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking.

### 5. PROJECT VISTAAR

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India, on Project VISTAAR, which seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agricultural extension system through Digitalization.
- The Pilot Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) seeks to further strengthen the agricultural extension system.

### 6. Direct Tax Vivat Se Vishwas Scheme

- The Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 provides an opportunity to taxpayers for settling their pending tax disputes with the Income Tax Department.
- Under this scheme, you need to pay the disputed amount of tax as well as a specified percentage on this disputed

tax amount along with disputed tax amount.

- Features: Woven from natural screwpine leaves, symbolizing sustainability.

## 7. Republic Day Craft Products

- To mark 75 years of the Republic of India, President has introduced a unique Republic Day "At Home" reception
- These crafts, created by artisans from five southern states under the "One District One Product" scheme.

Kalamkari Painted Bamboo Box (Andhra Pradesh):

- Features: Handcrafted with traditional Nimmalakunta Kalamkari paintings.

Ikat-Pochampalli Cover (Telangana):

- Features: Reusable cover showcasing Ikat weaving tradition.

Ganjifa Art Magnet (Karnataka):

- Features: Depicts the intricate Ganjifa art, known for its connection to playing cards.

Kanjeevaram Silk Pouch (Tamil Nadu):

- Features: Handmade silk pouch symbolizing the elegance of Kanjeevaram weaving.

Etikopakka Dolls (Andhra Pradesh):

- Features: Eco-friendly, traditional wooden dolls.

Screwpine Leaf Bookmark (Kerala):

## UNION GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### 8. PM internship scheme

- Aim: To provide young individuals aged 21-24 years from low-income households with 12-month internship opportunities in the country's top 500 companies.
- Works under the ministry of corporate affairs
- The pilot phase targets 1.25 lakh youth, with a five-year goal to facilitate internships for one crore young individuals.

### 9. JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- Government announced an extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till 2028,
- Objective: it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- Works under Jal Shakti Ministry.

### INITIATIVES UNDER JJM

- Nal Jal Mitra Programme: Trains villagers as "Nal Jal Mitras" to maintain and repair water supply systems.
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR): Launched in 2019 for water conservation through public participation.

- 2024 Theme: "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti", emphasizing women's role in water conservation.

## 10. Ayushman Bharat Scheme

**Launched:** 2018

**Objective:** Achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Components: Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) & Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

### Eligibility:

- Rural & Urban: Categories based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data
- All senior citizens aged 70+

### Benefits:

- Under PM-JAY, families receive up to Rs. 5 lakhs annually
- AAMs ensure comprehensive primary healthcare

### Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):

- Launched in 2021, the ABDM aims to create a digital health infrastructure for India, enabling a seamless exchange of health data and enhancing accessibility, equity, and the quality of healthcare services.

### 1) Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Health and Wellness Centre)

- 1,50,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandir will be created to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), that is universal and free to users.

### 2) Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

- Expanded Coverage for Senior Citizens
- Free Health Insurance: ₹5 lakhs per family for all citizens aged 70+.
- Extra Coverage: Seniors in AB PM-JAY

families get an additional ₹5 lakhs.

### Ayushman VayVandana Card:

- Special card for senior citizens.

### Private Insurance Holders Eligible:

Includes those with private or ESIC coverage

## 11. SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping

### with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme

- It is a scheme for mapping the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using drone technology and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS)
- works under the ministry of panchayati raj

### Objectives

- To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.

- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
- Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.
- To reduce property related disputes and legal cases

#### **RELATED NEWS**

- Bhu-Aadhaar or ULPIN was launched in 2021 as part of land records modernisation programme

#### **12. PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park**

- Aim: To develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facilities for the entire value-chain of the textile industry.
- Time Period: 2021-22 to 2027-28
- Implementation Agency: Special Purpose Vehicle owned by the Centre and State Government.

#### **Benefits of PM MITRA Parks Scheme**

- it will create an integrated value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at 1 location.
- Each park is intended to create 1 lakh jobs directly and 2 lakh jobs indirectly.

#### **RELATED NEWS**

- Tamilnadu a pioneer of textile industry, the first state to launch the mega textile park under pm Mitra scheme.
- It is located in kumaralingapuram in virudhunagar district.

#### **13.UttarPoorvaTransformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024**

- AIM: to strengthen the Industrial Eco-System in the North East region and attract New Investment
- works under the ministry of commerce and industry.

#### **14.Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

- AIF was launched as part of the AtmanirbharBharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Campaign) announced by the union government in May 2020.
- Provision of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and Credits guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises(CGTMSE) for loans up to Rs. 2 Crores.

#### **15. The National TB Elimination Program (NTEP).**

- India's goal to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, five years before the global target of 2030.

The NTEP follows the National Strategic Plan (2017-2025)

- Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB) to control and eliminate TB in India.
- The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), one of the components of NTEP, aims to unite communities, businesses, and institutions to support TB patients and their families.
- Ni-kshay Portal is a web-based patient management and surveillance system under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative - Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), the Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative encourages individuals, NGOs, corporates, faith-based organizations, and others to adopt TB patients for at least six months, offering them nutritional, social, or economic support.
- Drugs used for treating MDR-TB (Multi drug resistant) Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin.

#### **16. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**

- Aims to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047
- Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder that leads to abnormal crescent-shaped red blood cells.
- Unlike normal disc-shaped cells, these sickle-shaped cells are rigid and sticky, blocking blood flow and leading to various complications.
- These include severe pain, swelling, anaemia, recurrent infections, and

damage to organs such as the liver, heart, and kidneys.

- Most significantly, the disease shortens the lifespan of affected individuals to approximately 40 years.
- Sickle cell disease is most prevalent in tribal populations, particularly across the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

#### **17.U-WIN PORTAL**

- It captures each & every vaccination event of all pregnant women & children under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- UIP is a part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Program under National Health Mission (NHM).
- It will ensure timely administration of life-saving vaccines to pregnant women and children (from birth to 16 years) against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases

#### **History & culture**

##### **1.Excavations at Vembakkottai**

- The excavation began in March 2022 at Vijayakaraisalkulam Mettukadu on the northern bank of Vembakkottai Vaippar near Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district.
- Another distinct finding from Vembakkottai is about 10 terracotta figurines that resemble Hyperboreans, an integral part of Greek mythology, which could hint at trade links.
- A terracotta figurine of a humped bull like the one found in Keeladi has also been unearthed.

- it is believed that people here might have received shells from Pattanamurudur in present-day Thoothukudi district as villagers there are still involved in shell trade.
- artefacts unearthed in Keeladi near Madurai pushed the Sangam Era to 600 BCE from 300 BCE, and rice husks found in a burial urn in Sivakalai was found to be 3,200 years old.

## **2.LIFE SIZE STATUE FOR JOHN MARSHALL**

- To commemorate the centenary year of the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation, one of the three early civilisations of South Asia, a life-size statue of English archaeologist John Marshall was going to be unveiled in Egmore museum.

## **3. Tamil Nadu: Birthplace of the Iron Age**

- Tamil Nadu as the site of the earliest known Iron Age civilization, making it potentially the oldest in the world.
- the Hittite Empire (in modern-day Turkey) was believed to be the first civilization to use iron, with evidence dating back to around 1,380 BCE.
- 'Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu', provides evidence that iron technology in Tamil Nadu existed as early as 3345 BCE.
- It indicates that iron was in use in Tamil Nadu as early as 5,300 years ago
- The findings are supported by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)

and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) analyses

- sivagalai: Evidence from charcoal and potsherds dates iron technology to 2953–3345 BCE, with a paddy sample dated to 1155 BCE.
- Mayiladumparai: Samples dated to 2172 BCE surpassed previous benchmarks for the region.
- Kilnamandi: A sarcophagus burial dated to 1692 BCE is the earliest of its kind in Tamil Nadu.

## **4.Pak Punjab govt opens Bhagat Singh Gallery at Poonch House in Lahore**

- Bhagat singh was hanged by British rulers on March 23, 1931 in Lahore, after being tried under charges for hatching a conspiracy against the colonial government.
- The case was filed against Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru for allegedly killing British police officer John P Saunders.
- In 1926, Bhagat Singh founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha (Youth Society of India) and became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association, which was later renamed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and advocated for an armed struggle as the path to Indian independence.

## **5.100 Years for Belagum Session of Indian National Congress**



- It was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi, the only time he served as the Congress president.
- During this session Gandhi presented his ideas on non-violence, communal harmony, and abolishing untouchability.

#### 6. **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha.**

- It was in 1924 that Ambedkar founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha.
- The Sabha's founding principles were expressed in their motto: "educate, organize and agitate".
- The Sabha's objectives included promoting education, organizing the oppressed, and agitating for social change to improve the socio-political standing of the "untouchables".
- Dr. Ambedkar also founded the "Bahishkrit Bharat" newspaper in 1927 and led the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927 to allow "untouchables" access to a public water.

### **POLITY**

#### 1. **High Electoral District**

- The assembly constituency with the highest electorate in Tamil Nadu is Sholinganallur.

#### **Lowest Electoral District**

- The assembly constituency with the lowest electorate is Kilvellur in Nagapattinam district.

#### 2. **STATE PARTY**

- In Tamil Nadu, Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal

Katchi (VCK) have recently been recognised as state parties.

#### **Conditions for recognition as a 'national party'**

- The party should have secured at least 6% of valid votes in four or more states either in the Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, along with having four MPs; OR
- The party should have won at least 2% of the total number of Lok Sabha seats, along with having and the party's candidates should be elected from not less than three states;

OR

- The party should be recognised as a 'state party' in at least four states.

#### 3. **ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

- The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) asked with examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, featuring 39 members, 27 from Lok Sabha and 12 from Rajyasabha.
- BJP MP PP Chaudhary has been appointed as the Chairperson of the committee.
- The bills aim to amend the Constitution to enable synchronized elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and local bodies.

#### **RELATED NEWS**

- Committee on ONE NATION ,ONE Election constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ram Nath Kovind

#### **4.Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):**

- It is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contributions provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India.
- The Act was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.
- The Act aims to prevent foreign organisations from influencing electoral politics, social, political, economic, or religious discussions in India for wrong purposes and activities detrimental to the public interest.
- The Act comes under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

### **ECONOMICS**

#### **1.The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025**

- hosted in Davos, Switzerland,
- 2025 Theme: "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age"

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

Established: The WEF was founded in 1971 as the European Management Forum, later renamed the World Economic Forum in 1987.

Headquarters: The WEF is headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland.

Established by: German economist Klaus Schwab, who introduced the concept of "stakeholder capitalism".

#### **Aim:**

- To improve the state of the world by fostering public-private cooperation.
- To address global economic, social, and environmental challenges through collaboration among stakeholders.

#### **2.SEX RATIO**

- The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, launched in 2015, has improved the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24
- increased the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of girls in secondary education from 75.51% to 79.4% during the same period.

#### **BBBP SCHEME**

- The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme,
- launched on January 22, 2015
- under the Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has achieved notable progress in improving the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for girls.

#### **3. MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE**

- MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
- MSP is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural



Costs and Prices (CACP), which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc.

- CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs.
- The MSP is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to growers for their produce and encouraging Crop Diversification.

#### **Crops Under MSP:**

- The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.

#### **4. Maternal mortality ratio**

- Kerala's maternal mortality ratio, currently the lowest in the country at 19 per one lakh live births, is now climbing steadily.
- primarily due to a decrease in the number of live births rather than an increase in maternal deaths.
- MMR refers to the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications.

- India's National Target: Reduce MMR to below 70 by 2030.
- Kerala aims to reduce its MMR to 20 by 2030.
- India's MMR stands at 97 (SRS 2018-20), significantly higher than Kerala's figure of 19

#### **RELATED NEWS**

- From 45.5 per one lakh live births during 2023-24, Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dropped to 39.4, while the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced from 8.2 per 1,000 live births to 7.7.

#### **5. GSDP OF TAMILNADU**

- Tamil Nadu is indeed the second-largest economy in India by Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and has a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem, with a high number of registered start-ups.

#### **Second Largest Economy:**

- Tamil Nadu consistently ranks as the second-largest economy among Indian states, with its GSDP at current prices reaching ₹27.22 lakh crore in 2023-24.

#### **High Growth Rate:**

- Tamil Nadu's GSDP grew at 8.23% in 2023-24, reflecting a robust economic performance.

#### **Per Capita Income:**

- Tamil Nadu's per capita income is significantly above the national average, with ₹2.78 lakh in 2022-23, 1.6

times the national average of ₹1.69 lakh.

### **Contribution to National GDP:**

- Tamil Nadu contributed 9.21% to the national GDP in 2023-24.

### **6.RBI REPORT**

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) growth report for 2023-24 has revealed that Tamil Nadu is the top employer in the country.
- "Tamil Nadu has provided more employment opportunities through small and medium enterprises than Gujarat and Maharashtra.

### **7.16th finance commission**

- The 16th Finance Commission, commencing April 1, 2026, is chaired by Dr Arvind Panagariya.
- The Finance Commission, established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, is a constitutional body that recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the central and state governments every five years.

### **15th finance commission**

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted on 27th November, 2017 under NK SINGH
- The recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission are valid up to the financial year 2025-26.

### **Recommendations of 15th Finance Commission:**

#### **Share of States in Central Taxes:**

- The Commission proposed maintaining the states' share in central taxes at 41% for the 2021-26 period, a slight reduction from the 42% allocated during 2015-20 by the 14th Finance Commission.
- This 1% adjustment aims to accommodate the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the central resources.

### **Fiscal Deficit and Debt Levels:**

- The Commission recommended that the Centre aims to limit its fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26.

### **8. Fiscal Health Index (FHI)**

- initiative by NITI Aayog aims to evolve an understanding of the fiscal health of states in India.
- Odisha leads the Index, followed by Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand and Gujarat at the top.
- As states are responsible for approximately two-thirds of public spending and one-third of total revenue
- Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Haryana figure at the bottom of the table.
- The performance of the states has been put under four categories - achiever, front runners, performers and aspirational.
- TAMILNADU-PERFORMER CATEGORY

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **1.Non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council**

- Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia began to assume responsibilities.
- Their two-year term officially started on January 1.

### **United Nations Security Council**

- 5-member Security Council has five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly.
- Five non-permanent members are replaced every year

### **2. Silver Notice**

- The Interpol has launched 'Silver Notice',
- It's aimed at helping trace and recover criminal assets for combating transnational organised crime through enhanced international police cooperation.
- India is also a participating country

## **ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY**

### **1. GARUDAKSHI**

- Karnataka Forest Department has launched the 'Garudakshi' online FIR system to curb forest encroachments, illegal tree-felling, poaching, and unauthorised entry into forest areas.

### **2. Flamingo Festival 2025**

- The Flamingo Festival 2025 organised in Andhra Pradesh with calls to protect

the rich biodiversity of the region, specifically in Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary

### **Pulicat Lake**

- It is the second largest brackish water lake in India.
- It is located in Sriharikota between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

### **3. Z-Morh tunnel**

- renamed the Sonamarg tunnel, is part of the Zojila tunnel project that aims to provide all weather connectivity from Srinagar to Ladakh throughout the year.

### **4. Zojila Pass**

- also known as 'The Mountain Pass of Blizzards', is a high mountain pass located in the Kargil district of Ladakh.
- It is located on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway (NH-1) at a height of 11,650 feet.
- It lies in the Greater Himalayan Range
- In 2018, the Zojila tunnel project was launched. The tunnel is Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

### **5. NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD**

- launched the National Turmeric Board to support turmeric farmers, and promote exports.
- Headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, the Board will focus on R&D, global promotion of India's

turmeric, which accounts for 70% of global production.

#### **6.Nation's largest livestock research institute**

- The country's largest livestock research institute — Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences (AIIRLIVAS) — in Thalavasal, Salem
- the institute aims to preserve and promote indigenous livestock and poultry breeds. It also plans to train 3,000 farmers annually to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

#### **7. TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE**

- Tamil Nadu government has decided to set up an Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Center (IBCC) in Point Calimere or Kodiyakarai.

#### **8.MEKADATU**

- The Mekedatu project is a multipurpose project involving the construction of a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, Karnataka.
- Mekedatu, meaning goat's leap, is a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.

#### **River Cauvery (Kaveri):**

- It is known as 'Ponni' in Tamil, and it is the fourth largest river in southern India.
- It is a sacred river of southern India. It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state,

flows in a southeasterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry.

- Left Bank Tributary: Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Shimsa, and Harangi.
- Right Bank Tributary: Lakshmantirtha, Suvarnavati, Noyil, Bhavani, Kabini, and Amaravathi.

#### **9.The "Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2024"**

- Nitrate contamination is a significant environmental and health concern, particularly in agricultural regions using nitrogen-based fertilisers and animal waste.
- Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had over 40 per cent of samples above the limit .

#### **10.10th International Balloon Festival**

- The 10th International Balloon Festival was held at Thiruvudanthai near Mamallapuram

### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **1.Pralay Missile:**

- It is an indigenously developed short-range, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile.
- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based on the

Prithvi Defence Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme.

- It is powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor.
- The missile has a range of 150-500 km

### **RELATED NEWS**

- The first ballistic missile developed by India is the Prithvi Missile. It was part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) initiated in 1983

## **2.MUMPS DISEASE**

- It is a contagious disease caused by a paramyxovirus.
- It can cause the parotid glands, the ones on each side of the face to swell and they may also be tender or painful.
- It is an acute disease which infects children and young adults.
- Humans are the only known host for mumps virus, which is spread via direct contact or by airborne droplets from the upper respiratory tract of infected individuals.

Universal Immunisation Programme

- The UIP in Tamil Nadu currently administers 11 vaccines to protect against 12 diseases, including tuberculosis and measles.
- The Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine was added in April 2017, but mumps remains unaddressed.

## **3.INDIA'S HYPERSONIC MISSILE TECHNOLOGY**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet) engine ground test, advancing India's hypersonic missile tech.
- Scramjet Engine: A scramjet engine (Air-breathing engines) is an advanced ramjet that uses supersonic airflow for combustion, enabling faster speeds.
- It uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen for thrust, offering better fuel efficiency.
- Unlike a turbojet engine, ramjets and scramjets have no moving parts, consisting only of an inlet, combustor (with fuel injector and flame holder), and a nozzle.
- Scramjets are key to hypersonic vehicles to handle airflows at speeds above the speed of sound, offer manoeuvrability, and strategic advantage.
- **Hypersonic Missiles:** Traveling at speeds greater than Mach 5 (over 5,400 km/h), bypass air defences with high-speed, high-impact strikes.

## **4. Indian Navy warships INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer were commissioned**

- INS Nilgiri is a stealth frigate,
- INS Surat is an INDIA'S FIRST AI-enabled missile destroyer,
- INS Vaghsheer is a Scorpene-class submarine with advanced features.

## **5. HIMKAVACH**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the 'HimKavach' clothing system to protect soldiers operating in extreme cold conditions.
- The system, designed to function in temperatures ranging from 20°C to -60°C, has passed all user trials in operational settings.

### 6. BHARAT SMALL REACTORS

- Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) are a type of Small Modular Reactor (SMR) designed for India's energy needs.
- These reactors are compact, factory-built nuclear reactors with a power capacity of up to 300 MW.
- They aim to provide a safe, cost-effective, and low-carbon energy source, particularly suitable for locations that cannot accommodate larger nuclear plants.

### 7. SEEDS SPROUTED IN SPACE BY ISRO

- Isro grows crops in space, cowpea seeds sprout in just four days
- better known as lobia in Hindi or thattapayaru in Tamil.
- ISRO's first biological experiment in space, was part of CROPS (Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies), an automated platform designed to cultivate and sustain plant life in microgravity environment of space.

### 8. SpaDeX

- SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology.
- Objective: The primary goal of SpaDeX is to develop docking technologies for two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in low Earth orbit.
- Mission Duration: Two years

### 9. HMPV

- HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, which includes RSV, measles, and mumps viruses.
- It causes acute respiratory infections, similar to flu and Covid-19.
- Presence: It is not limited to China and is found all over the world. It is clubbed as a common respiratory pathogen. It does not have a vaccine.
- Symptoms: Cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and wheezing, which typically resolve within 2-5 days.
- Vulnerable Groups: Children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk of complications like pneumonia.
- Transmission: HMPV spreads through close contact or by touching contaminated surfaces.
- Seasonality: It commonly circulates during winter and spring, along with other respiratory infections like Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and influenza.

### 10. Trichophyton indotineae

- It is a fungal pathogen that can cause difficult-to-treat skin infections that are widely reported from India.
- The fungus was named after India in 2020 by a Japanese group on the basis of two isolates from India and Nepal, following an academic practice of identifying a new pathogen after the country where it was first sighted.
- It belongs to the dermatophyte group. Dermatophytosis is the superficial infection of the skin, hair, and nails by dermatophyte fungi.
- Patients of all ages and genders are affected.
- Transmission: Spreads through direct skin contact and contaminated objects (e.g., towels, clothing).

#### 11. Parvovirus

- It is a highly contagious viral disease affecting puppies and dogs.
- It affects the intestinal tract of canines with puppies being more susceptible.

#### 12. NAG MK2 MISSILE

- It is an indigenously-developed third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile.
- Developed by DRDO

#### 13. MISSION MAUSAM

- Mission Mausam is a comprehensive program to modernize India's weather and climate monitoring infrastructure, focusing on advanced technologies for

atmospheric observations and data analysis.

- Works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and India Meteorological Department

Aim:

- To make India a weather-ready and climate-smart nation.
- To enhance weather forecasting accuracy and support climate change mitigation efforts.

#### 14. GBS

- GBS is a rare autoimmune disorder where the immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nerves, leading to numbness, muscle weakness, and, in severe cases, paralysis.
- It is not contagious and typically affects adults, although people of all ages can develop the condition.

#### Symptoms of GBS:

- Progressive Symptoms: Difficulty in walking, limb paralysis, and muscle coordination issues.

#### Causes of GBS:

- Infections: Often preceded by bacterial or viral infections like:
- Campylobacter jejuni (foodborne illness).
- Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV). Cytomegalovirus (CMV).
- Bacteria causing pneumonia or urinary tract infections

#### SPORTS



### 1. India to Host FIDE Chess World Cup 2025

- The country's R. Praggnanandhaa made history in the 2023 edition, when he secured the silver medal after a narrow loss to Magnus Carlsen in the final.
- Viswanathan Anand, one of India's most iconic chess players, remains the only Indian to have won the FIDE World Cup.

### 2. kho kho world cup 2025

- India emerged as the champions of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025, clinching both the men's and women's Kho Kho World champions titles by defeating Nepal in the finals.

### 3. Australian Open tennis tournament

- Madison Keys of the United States won the women's singles title at the Australian Open.

## AWARDS/APPOINTMENT

### 1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award Winners

- Shri Gukesh D - Chess
- Shri Harmanpreet Singh - Hockey
- Shri Praveen Kumar - Para-Athletics
- Ms Manu Bhaker - Shooting

### 2. Dronacharya Award

- Subhash Rana – Para Shooting
- deebali Deshpande – Shooting
- Sandeep Sangwan – Hockey

### 3. Lifetime Achievement

- S. Muralitharan Badminton
- Armando Agnelo Colaco – Football

### 4. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

- Indian Foundation of Physical Education

### 5. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

- Chandigarh University - Overall Champion

### 6. Arjuna Award

- Thulasimathi Murugesan (Para-Badminton) – Badminton (Para-Sports)
- Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan (Para-Badminton) – Badminton (Para-Sports)
- Manisha Ramadass (Para-Badminton) – Badminton (Para-Sports)

### 2. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- The 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is scheduled to be held from 8–10 January 2025 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### 3. TN GOVT AWARDS

- M. Padikkaramu - Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award
- L. Ganesan - Anna Award
- poet Kabilan - Mahakavi Bharathiyar award
- Pon. Selvaganapathy - Bharathidasan award.
- G.R. Ravindaranath - Tamil Thendral Thiru. Vi. Ka. award
- Ve. Mu. Pothiyaverpan - KAP Viswanatham award.
- The awardees will get ₹2 lakhs, one sovereign one sovereign gold medal and a citation.
- Journalist Viduthalai Rajendran - Thanthai Periyar award
- VCK MP Ravikumar - the Annal Ambedkar award. They will get ₹5 lakhs, a gold medal, and a citation. one sovereign gold medal and a citation.



- Muthu Vavasi - Kalaigiar Award that carries ₹10 lakhs, a gold medal and a citation.
- K.V.Thangkabalu-Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award