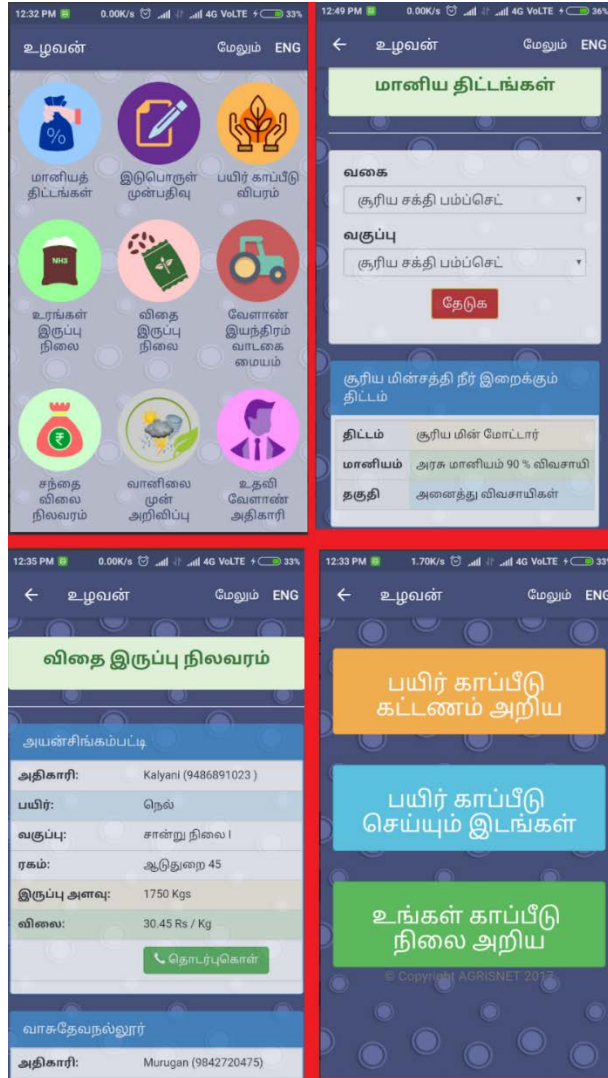


April -13

TAMILNADU

'Uzhavan' - Bi-lingual Mobile App

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government launched bi-lingual 'Uzhavan' (farmer) mobile application in Chennai, in a bid to use technology for benefit of farmers.



- ❖ The app available in Tamil and English language. Through this app ryot to can access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance.
- ❖ Through this app, a farmer can avail the following services
 - Can Get information on farm subsidies,

- Can Get details on their crop insurance,
- Can receive weather forecast for next four days.
- ❖ It will also provide information on seeds and fertilizer stocks in local government and private stores.
- ❖ TN Government also launched 'Amma Bio-Fertiliser' scheme aimed at better management of nature farming and promoting and maintaining soil fertility.

NATIONAL

Project Dhoop

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop' to address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst the young people.



- ❖ It has been launched by FSSAI along with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- ❖ The project aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

FSSAI

- ❖ FSSAI is a nodal statutory agency responsible for protecting and promoting public health in India through regulation and supervision of food safety.
- ❖ It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and operates under the aegis of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Van Dhan Vikas Kendra

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved the establishment of the first multipurpose “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” on a pilot basis for the establishment in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh State.
- ❖ Van Dhan Vikas Kendra will be an important part of Central Government’s scheme of “Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support price (MSP) and development of Value chain for MFP”.
- ❖ This scheme is for socio-economic development of tribals living in forests, for whom, collecting Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood.
- ❖ The first “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh will provide skill upgradation and capacity building training and will have primary processing and value addition facility for Minor Forest Produce.
- ❖ The Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP.
- ❖ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has assigned the work for the establishment of this pilot Vikas Kendra to Chhattisgarh Minor forest produce (CGMFP) Federation.

INTERNATIONAL

Boao Forum - Ban Ki-moon

- ❖ Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was elected as Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia.
- ❖ By this selection, Ban Ki-moon is going to replace Japan’s Yasuo Fukuda, the incumbent Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia.



- ❖ The former governor of People's Bank of China Zhou Xiaochuan was appointed vice-chairman.
- ❖ The appointments took place during the second session of annual Boao Forum, known as "Asian Davos" underway in China's Hainan province.
- ❖ Ban Ki-moon is a South Korean diplomat and was eighth Secretary-General of United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016.

Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)

- ❖ BFA was established in 2001. Its first meeting was held in April 2002 and since then it is held annually.
- ❖ It is modeled on annual World Economic Forum (WEF) held annually in Davos, Switzerland.



- ❖ It is a non-profit organization that hosts high-level forums for leaders from government, business, and academia in Asia and other continents to share their vision on most pressing issues in this dynamic region and world.
- ❖ Its fixed meeting is held annually in Boao, Hainan province, China although Secretariat is based in Beijing. The forum sometimes is known as the “Asian Davos”.
- ❖ This forum takes its name from the town of Boao in China’s southern Hainan province, which has been the permanent venue for its annual conference since 2002.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Awards to Tamil scholars

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM presented Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards to eminent Tamil scholars and institutions that made noted contribution for the development of Tamil, its literature, grammar and related archaeology and epigraphy.
- ❖ The Tamizhthai Award for 2017 was given to Bengaluru Tamil Sangam.
- ❖ Kabilar Award for 2017 was given to K.V. Balasubramanian for his contributions to the field of epigraphy and archaeology.
- ❖ U.Ve.Sa. Award for 2017 went to S. Krishnamurthy for his noted efforts in manuscriptology.
- ❖ Sugi. Sivam received Kambar Award for 2017 and Vaigaiselvan received Sollin Selvar Award for 2017.
- ❖ G.U. Pope Award for translating Tamil literature to a foreign language for 2017 went to K. Rajeswari Kothandam and Umarupulavar Award for 2017 went to Haji M. Mohammad Yusuf.
- ❖ V. Nallathambi received Elangovadigal Award for 2017.
- ❖ Amma Literary Award for 2017 and Chief Minister’s Tamil Computing Award for 2016 went to M.S. Srilakshmi and R. Doraipandi of Ultimate Software Solutions respectively.
- ❖ Under the World Tamil Sangam Award for 2016, the literary award was given to N. Andiappan.
- ❖ In World Tamil Sangam Award for 2017, Chandrika Subramanian of Australia received the literary award, Ulrike Nicholas of Germany received Grammar Award and Mahadeva Iyer, Jayarama Sarma got Linguistic Award.

World Hindi Conference

- ❖ The eleventh edition of World Hindi Conference will be hosted by Mauritius in its capital city Port Louis on August 18-20, 2018.
- ❖ It will be organized by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in association with Government of Mauritius.
- ❖ The theme of the Conference is “Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti”.
- ❖ The First World Hindi Conference was held in 1975 in Nagpur and was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ The 10th edition of World Hindi Conference was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (India) in 2015 with the theme of “Hindi Jagat - Vistar and Sambhavnaye”.



DG of CISF

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ❖ He will have a tenure until November 30, 2020.



- ❖ The DG of CISF post was lying vacant for few months after incumbent OP Singh took over as DG of Uttar Pradesh Police in January 2018.

Central Industrial Security Force

- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a central armed police force under the aegis of Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarters are at New Delhi.
- ❖ It was initially established under the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968 to protect major PSUs.
- ❖ However, it was converted to an armed force with a larger ambit under an amendment to the Act in 1983.
- ❖ Now, CISF provides security to industrial ventures and establishments, VIPs and engages in disaster management amongst others.
- ❖ It also has a Fire Wing to tackle the fire accidents.

DG of ICMR

- ❖ The Union Government has appointed AIIMS professor Balram Bhargava as Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.
- ❖ He will have a tenure of three years or until attainment of the age of 60 years.



Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- ❖ Indian Council of Medical Research was established in 1911 as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) making it one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
 - ❖ The ICMR is India's apex scientific body for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.
 - ❖ The ICMR functions under the Department of Health Research, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
 - ❖ ICMR's Governing Body is presided over by Union Health Minister.
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